

Groton Base Boat Notes





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



Greetings Shipmates, families, and friends. Thanksgiving and the month of November are in the in the baffles and we are making turns towards all of those wonderful holidays in the month of December. So here at the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse we wish all of our members, "Seasons Greetings" and a peaceful end to 2025. There was a lot of stuff going on during the month of November and we thank you for all of your support. The Executive Board, and I send our well wishes to all U.S. Submarine Veterans and hope you have a fantastic month of December with family gatherings and remembrances. So, if you have the time to pitch in let us know at the clubhouse and or reach out to the EBoard.

USS F-1, USS S-48, USS S-4 (1917, 1921, 1927)

December is an important month for the early submarine force, as several losses would shape the fleet. We toll the bells to remember them, but here is some more information to know them intimately.

F-1

On December 17, 1917, tragedy struck. While maneuvering in exercises off Point Loma near San Diego, F-1 collided with her sister boat, F-3. The impact tore open F-1's port side forward of the engine room. She sank in just ten seconds. Nineteen men were lost: only three survived, rescued by F-3.

The loss of F-1 was devastating. Though the United States had entered World War I earlier that year, no submarines were lost to enemy action during the conflict. F-1's sinking was thus the only submarine casualty suffered by the Navy during America's wartime participation. Her wreck lay undisturbed for more than a century until rediscovered in 2025 by researchers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Resting over 1,300 feet below the surface, she was found "remarkably intact" on her starboard side—a silent memorial to the men who gave their lives.



S-48

If F-1's story is one of sudden loss, USS S-48 (SS-159) represents endurance through adversity. Commissioned in 1922, S-48 was the first submarine of the fourth group of S-class boats. At 240 feet long and displacing 1,125 tons submerged, she was far larger than the F-class and reflected the Navy's ambition to build long-range patrol submarines.



Yet S-48's career was plagued by mishaps. In December 1921, even before commissioning, she sank at her moorings in New London due to flooding through the main ballast tanks. On December 7, 1921, at 9:30 AM, S-48 went underway on its final sea trials evolution before delivery. S-48 was designed and built in Bridgeport, CT, a submarine built by the Lake Torpedo Boat company headed by the intrepid innovator, Simon Lake. Sea Trials in the 1920s was led by the shipyard, 36 of the people underway were employees of Lake Torpedo Boat and

many were former submariners, including the Sea Trials Director, Captain (civilian rank granted by the company) Joseph E. Austin. According to Charles A. Lockwood in his book (co-written by Hans C. Adamson), *Hell at 50 Fathoms*, S-48 was "98% complete," and they expected no issues having learned vital lessons from the S-5 such as the installation of the "Christmas Tree," the precursor to the Ballast Control Panel.

No dive is the same however, and the S-48 quickly found itself dropping stern first into the shallow water, a disabled submarine from flooding. Lockwood used an account from the prospective CO, LCDR Walter S. Haas, who was the last man from the engine room, to illustrate the severity of the casualty. Haas recalled:

"The last man had to fight his way in water up to his waist. At the same time the sea was gushing through the door opening up from the engine room. It even reached the crew's quarters forward and seeped through the planking down to the battery deck. Fast though they moved, the men got out of the engine room and motor rooms just in time or they would have drowned like rats. None of us knew what had happened or how. We only knew that we were in fairly bad fix and that something had to be done about it."

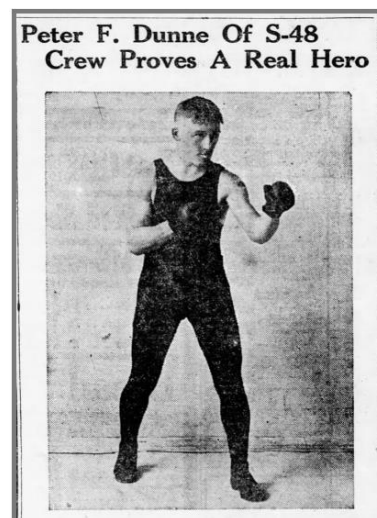
Luckily, the boat was in 60 feet of water, and they were aware of Charles M. Cooke and his crew's efforts to be rescued from S-5, so they worked to bring the unaffected forward compartments with the torpedo tubes out of the water. It was here the 19-year-old Dunne, with no experience in submarines, conducted a moment of heroism that likely saved the crew.

Lockwood stated Dunne was "an alert eager beaver," who was "Johnny-on-the-spot wherever a helping hand was needed." While Austin and Haas debated paths to move forward and a party including EMC Michael A. Fritz and LT Francis A. Smith worked to remediate the generation of chlorine gas from the battery well, Dunne asked if he could try to escape from the torpedo tube, which was above water due to the angle they had put the ship. Lockwood wrote:

"It was a brave offer, a daring suggestion, but could they allow this lad to take a chance? Even if the tube were above water, the temperature up there was freezing... In winter men in northern waters die of exposure in very few minutes. There was not a man in the crew who did not feel that Dunne was letting

himself in for what too much of a sacrifice could be. A strongly built youth with high-voltage energy, Pete had a rich crop of curly Irish red hair, a quick Irish grin, and a persuasive Irish tongue. Thanks to the latter... Austin finally agreed to let him try.”

A dry-run was conducted to ensure water had not entered the tubes, Dunne struggled up the greased torpedo tube using the blow and drain valves, jumped into the icy cold water to swim to tie the line to a deck cleat that was submerged so the others could use the line to climb the tube when rescue came. Despite his energy nearly entirely expended, he managed to slide back down to the torpedo tube where he immediately passed out. After the crew found out that he was still alive, they took his wet clothing off and offered a piece of dry clothing from each of them.



I bring Dunne to this article as a reminder of the essential work of yardbirds, particularly those who go underway on submarines as a regular duty. Frank Cable trained many of the first submariners after Holland was commissioned (not to mention the other nations who purchased many of the first boats) and yardbirds like Dunne continued to man the submarines before formal commissioning in the submarine force. It does not detract from the legacy of the submarine force to acknowledge the civilians who made S-48 possible through their hard work and dedication. Dunne's heroism also represents the contributions of Lake Torpedo Boat employees, who did faithful work to ensure the USN would have submarines with increasingly innovative designs. Dunne recalled his time on S-48 when interviewed in 1927 in the aftermath of S-4 tragedy and remained a living testament to the heroism necessary to board a submarine.



Despite these setbacks, S-48 served for nearly two decades. She operated along the East Coast, in the Caribbean, and later in the Panama Canal Zone. In the picture to the left, you can see two of the illustrious crew members on the far left, Hyman G. Rickover and Howard W. Gilmore, who both served aboard the troublesome S-48. During World War II, she was assigned to training duties, preparing new submariners for the rigors of undersea warfare. Finally decommissioned in 1945, she was scrapped in 1946.

S-4

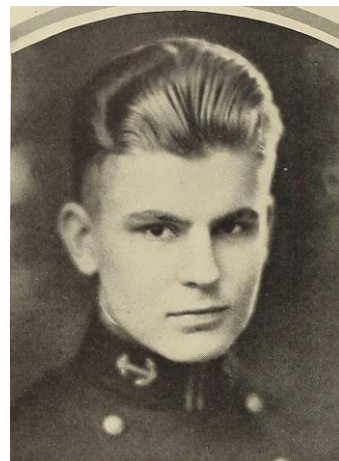
On 17 December 1927, USS S-4 (SS-109) was conducting submerged trials off Provincetown, Massachusetts, when she was accidentally rammed by the Coast Guard destroyer USCGC Paulding. The submarine sank immediately, trapping 40 men inside. Despite desperate rescue attempts—including divers tapping on the hull and receiving faint responses from trapped sailors—the worsening weather and flooding thwarted all efforts. By the time salvage operations could begin, all aboard had perished.



The disaster shocked the nation. Newspapers carried harrowing accounts of the failed rescue, and the public demanded answers. Many questioned why submarines were operating in busy coastal waters and why rescue technology was inadequate. Secretary of the Navy Curtis D. Wilbur faced intense criticism, especially considering the aftermath of S-51 and the numerous aviation disasters. Editorials and politicians called for his resignation, arguing that the Navy had failed to protect its men and had not invested sufficiently in submarine safety.

The tragedy became a rallying point for reform, leading to improvements in submarine rescue technology, including the development of the McCann Rescue Chamber in the 1930s.

Among those lost was Lieutenant Graham Newell Fitch, a 24-year-old officer from Washington, D.C., and a 1923 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Known to classmates as “Deacon” for his quiet determination, Fitch was respected for his steady character and devotion to duty. Fitch came to represent the S-4 to the public, and His death, along with that of his shipmates, underscored the risks faced by young officers in the submarine force. Fitch is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, where his name remains among those honored for their sacrifice. The sinking of S-4 was more than a tragic accident—it was a turning point. It galvanized public awareness of submarine dangers. It pressured the Navy to prioritize rescue systems and safety protocols, including the McCann rescue chamber and the Momsen Lung. It left a lasting mark on Provincetown, where residents watched helplessly as rescue efforts failed, and where memorials continue to honor the lost crew.



Conclusion

The stories of F-1, S-48, and S-4 together illustrate the perilous journey of America’s early submarine force. F-1’s sudden loss in 1917, S-48’s troubled service, and S-4’s nationally mourned disaster all highlights the sacrifices that shaped the evolution of undersea warfare. Today, remembering men like Graham Newell Fitch ensures that their courage and the lessons of their service are never forgotten.

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

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



United States Submarine Veterans Creed

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.



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

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

Lost Boats – December

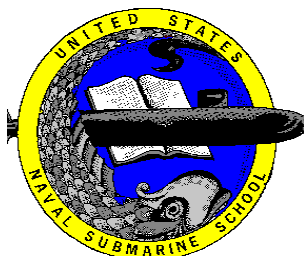
	USS Capelin (SS-289)	<p>Lost on Dec 2, 1943, with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.</p>
	USS Sealion (SS-195)	<p>Lost on Dec 10, 1941, with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.</p>

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	USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)	Lost on December 17, 1917, with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickrel (SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.
	USS S-4 (SS-109)	Lost on December 17, 1927, with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.

Plan of the Month, December 2025

Date	Time	Action	Description
12/4	0900	Event	BESS Graduation - SubVet Rep Steve Ricard
12/6	1400	Event	Groton Base Christmas Party and Membership Meeting
12/7	1200	Event	Rhode Island Base Christmas Party
12/12	1000	Event	SOAC Graduation - SubVet Rep Bob Sharpe
12/13	1100	Event	Wreaths Across America – Jordan Cemetery, Waterford
12/14	0900	Event	BESS Graduation - SubVet Rep Bob Sharpe
12/17	1100	Meeting	Holland Club Luncheon
12/22 - 12/27	ALL Week	CLOSED	CLUBHOUSE CLOSED ALL WEEK



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

Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates

During each month, a USSVI Groton Base member participated in Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation as the SubVets Representative presenting the "Heritage Award" and a SubVet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month's issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations held on the 31st of October and the 14th of November. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership, CO Captain Chance Litton, and CMC Michael Micheli, Senior Chief David Lee, and MMAC(SS) Nik Roberts, class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 25480, named after the USS Andrew Jackson SSBN 619. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) was a Lafayette-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. She was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for Andrew Jackson (1767–1845), the seventh President of the United States (1829–1837).

Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) was laid down on 26 April 1961 at Vallejo, Calif., by the Mare Island Naval Shipyard; launched on 15 September 1962; sponsored by Mrs. Estes Kefauver, the wife of Senator Kefauver of Tennessee; and commissioned on 3 July 1963, Comdr. Alfred J. Whittle, Jr., (Blue crew) and Comdr. James B. Wilson (Gold crew) in command.

Following commissioning, Andrew Jackson sailed via the Panama Canal to the United States East Coast. On 1 October and 11 October 1963, during shakedown training out of Cape Canaveral, Florida, she successfully launched Polaris A-2 ballistic missiles. On 26 October 1963, she sent Polaris A-3X missiles into space in the first submerged launching of its type; she repeated the feat on 11 November 1963. On 16 November 1963, six days before his assassination, President John F. Kennedy—embarked in the missile range instrumentation ship USS Observation Island—observed Andrew Jackson launch another Polaris A-2 ballistic missile from a point off Cape Canaveral and congratulated Commander Wilson and his crew for "impressive teamwork.

Post-shakedown operations continued in 1976. During February, the submarine conducted nuclear weapons acceptance tests and made port visits at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She sailed to Charleston on 5 March and entered the Charleston Naval Shipyard

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on 8 March for an availability period. Andrew Jackson was underway again on 9 May and returned to New London, Conn., in June. The next four weeks were spent in midshipman training cruises in the New London operating area. In late July, she left New London for her first strategic deterrent patrol after her Poseidon conversion. When the patrol was completed, Andrew Jackson entered her advanced base at Holy Loch, Scotland. In 1977, patrols from Holy Loch were interspersed with port visits at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and New London. In September, a refit was conducted at Charleston, then the submarine returned to Holy Loch. Andrew Jackson continued these deterrent patrols from Holy Loch for another decade, completing her sixty-ninth and final strategic deterrent patrol on 27 August 1987.

Andrew Jackson returned to Groton in October for pre-inactivation planning before shifting to Charleston on 14 February 1988. Following an inactivation ceremony on 28 May, the boat entered drydock for dismantling of the missile compartment and defueling, as task completed in time for the submarine's decommissioning at Charleston on 31 August 1989. Later towed to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the former ballistic missile boat was disposed of through the submarine recycling program on 30 August 1999.

More on the Jackson can be found https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Andrew_Jackson, and <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/a/andrew-jackson-ii.html>.



The October 3rd BESS Class named after USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) had 136 students with a class average was 76% and 1 graduating with Distinction. 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: MMAC(SS) Roberts, FT1(SS) Williams, and STS2(SS) Farrell. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Commanding Office, Captain Chance Litton. Guest Speaker was ITRCM(SS) Chip Alger USN Retired. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.

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USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member and Jackson crewmember, Bill Cavanagh was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Edward Gray Jr. 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 Master Chief Esteban Vargas to LSSSR(SU) Jesus Rodriguez-Esquivel. 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 YNSC (SU) Ahmawn Romby by SubSchool CO, Captain Chance Litton. 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 ITRCM(SS) Chip Alger to SN(SU) Brody C. Blair. 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.



On November 14th, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Nevada (SSBN-733).

USS Nevada (SSBN-733) is a United States Navy Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine that has been in commission since 1986. She is the fourth ship of the U.S. Navy to be named for Nevada, the 36th state.

The contract to build Nevada was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, on 7 January 1981 and her keel was laid down

there on 8 August 1983. She was launched on 14 September 1985 sponsored by Mrs. Carol Laxalt, the wife of United States Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, and commissioned on 16 August 1986, with Captain F.W. Rohm in command of the Blue Crew and Captain William Stone in command of the Gold Crew.

Open sources describe at least one exercise in which she trained in company with another OHIO-class ballistic-missile submarine, USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730), and with U.S. Navy MH-60R helicopters, U.S. Marine Corps CMV-22 Ospreys, and U.S. Air Force C-17 transport aircraft, demonstrating the ability of strategic submarines to integrate with other platforms for support, logistics, and protection in contested environments. Although the detailed dates and scenarios for such exercises are not public, they fit into a broader pattern of training aimed at ensuring that ballistic-missile submarines can operate effectively in an era of increasing undersea competition.

In February 2025, imagery from Naval Base Kitsap shows USS Nevada returning to Bangor after another strategic deterrent patrol, with sailors topside and tugs assisting her into the pier. This illustrates the enduring cycle of operations that has defined her service life: extended patrols in the Pacific, followed by refit, crew turnover, and training in home waters. Nearly four decades after her commissioning, USS Nevada continues to serve as a central element of U.S. sea-based nuclear deterrence.

Nevada was awarded the 2018 Omaha Trophy on 21 August 2019. The Blue and Gold crews received the trophy to recognize their high standards of performance in the command's mission areas. The ballistic missile submarine has been regarded as "one of the US Navy's most powerful weapons" in 2022.

More on the USS Nevada can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nevada_\(SSBN-733\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nevada_(SSBN-733)) and https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=10888



The USS Nevada (SSBN-733), class #25500 had 128 students with an average of 79% and 6 students graduating with distinction. Congratulations and “Well Done.” These future Submariners have finished that first significant milestone in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments ranging from “A” School to direct assignment to their first submarine. A big shout out to the instructors for this class for teaching them and giving them insight to their future onboard submarines. Thank you for using your background training and experience in training these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool CMDCM Mike Micheli. ITRCM(SS) Terry Woods was the Guest Speaker. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson, gave Invocation and Benediction.

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USSVI Groton Base, Color Guard Captain, and Holland Club Member, Senior Chief Bob Sharpe, USN Retired, was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Charles Parrish. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates the performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) Tegan Smith, by Master Chief Esteban Vargas. 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 by CMC, Micheli to SR(SU) Carl Stoneback. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.



The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SR(SU) Pheonix Honzell, by ITRCM(SS) Terry Woods. 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. There are still many dates available to be the SubVet Representative. If interested please let me know.

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BESS Graduation Schedule SubVet Representative

Class No.	Class Name	Command Rep	Guest Speaker	SUBVETS Rep	Graduation Date	Notes
26020	USS Sea Lion			Steve Ricard	2025 Dec 4	
26040	USS Albacore	DOT		Bob Sharpe	2025-Dec 17	
26060	USS Nautilus			Gary Schmid	2026 Jan 16	
26080	USS Barb			John Roch	2026 Jan 20	
261000	USS Shark			TBD	2026 Feb 13	

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) Dates:

Awaiting a new graduation schedule

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) Dates:

25050 Graduate on 12 Dec 2025: Bob Sharpe

25060 Graduate on 20 Feb 2026

26020 Graduate on 18 Jun 2026

26050 Graduate on 11 Dec 2026

26010 Graduate on 01 May 2026

26030 Graduate on 14 Aug 2026

26040 Graduate on 23 Oct 2026

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

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



The clubhouse is open Tuesday-Friday 1100-1900 with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Come in and welcome Dawn. Thanks to Heather, Ashley, Jess, Erin, Ollie, and Julz for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination. September, the galley may be returning to normal operations. Please stand by as we transition to a fall menu and break in a new cook.

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

Stop in and renew some old friendships. **Speaking of renewing, time to renew your Groton Base and USSVI National memberships.** We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Tuesday & Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.

On Monday November 3rd we held our Monthly Membership meeting at 1830 in the hall. Thirty-four members joined the monthly meeting both in person and via Zoom. Thank you for joining us each month.

Executive Board members gave updates on the status of the club finances, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Each chairperson provided updates on committee activities during the month and plans for the upcoming months. Big thanks to Jr. Vice Jim Lawton for running the meeting while I was away.

Prior to the meeting, a social hour/holiday stress relief was held in the pump room. Hot dogs and SubVet chili are available at a very reasonable price. With the invention of Zoom, you’d think more members would attend the meeting. **We offer Zoom so all of our, almost 1200 members, can attend.**

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Join us next month at our special combined Holiday Party/Membership meeting on Saturday 6 December starting at 2:00PM. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.



Base Christmas Party
In lieu of December monthly meeting

December 6, 2025

Saturday 2:00 pm

RSVP by Wednesday December 3, 2025

\$30 per person paid in advance at the bar



In the newly renovated topside hall.
 New Bathroom
 New Bar
 Easily accessible ramp on the right side of the building.
 No stairs
 Basket raffle, 50/50 raffle
Photo Booth and Santa Courtesy of Creative Sounds

Coat Drive

Looking for gently used or new (if you can afford) coats, hats, gloves, scarves for children who come to school without. There are several schools in the area who are in need of these items.

*Donated items can be placed in the Christmas decorated box in the upstairs hall starting 3 November 2025. Items will be accepted up to and including the Christmas party.
 (Elementary up to 6th grade, sizes 6 to 16)*

Agenda

Welcome by Base Commander Steve Ricard
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Opening Prayer
 December Lost Boats
 Eternal Patrol Ornaments after dinner

Menu

Shrimp cocktail
 Charcuterie board
 Roast beef, baked potato, vegetable, rolls/butter, coffee/tea, hot chocolate.
Asking everyone who is attending to bring a favorite dessert to share

See the bartender to sign up.
\$30 per person paid in advance at the bar

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November 5 – 7 several members attended the 37th Anniversary Honoring WWII Submarine Veterans held in Kings Bay, GA. Keith Post, USSVI Trident Base, and his entire committee, along with Submarine Base, Kings Bay put together another fantastic three day celebration. There is a lot of hard work and dedication that goes into an event of this magnitude. Despite the roadblocks thrown up by the US Government shutdown the event was a hug success.



Friday November 5 was the Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee monthly dinner. This month's menu was a family staple, "Beanies and Weenies."



On Sunday 9 November our friends from EBMA returned to the galley cooking up a wonderful Sunday Brunch. Thanks again for supporting our submarine community.

On Tuesday 11 November, we held a Veterans Day Ceremony at the City of Groton Municipal building. It was a combined USA Veterans Day and Australian Remembrance Day ceremony with the Royal Australian Navy and SubVets Groton Base. Guest Speaker was Rear Adm. Mike Holland, USN Retired and Master of Ceremony was, Region Director Northeast STSCS(SS) Jeff Walsh USN Retired.



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On Tuesday November 18th we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon in Higham Hall. There were plenty of seats for the over 70 members and guests that attended the luncheon. Our guest speaker was former CO of the USS Dallas, Captain Dave Roberts USN Retired and is currently heavily involved with the PCU District of Columbia. Heather and Dawn along with the help of 10 SubSchool Students did a fantastic job putting together a delicious buffet style luncheon.

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



November 24 – 28 the clubhouse was in Thanksgiving “Caring and Sharing mode. Thanksgiving 2025 is officially in the SubVets Groton Base “Deck log” or should I say record book. You, our Team of volunteers, did a spectacular, herculean job in pulling together another fantastic Thanksgiving at the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse. Each of you provided a smile, a conversation, a story to our young Sailors spending their first Thanksgiving away from home. So I say, “Thank You.” Thank you for spending the day helping serve up and deliver Thanksgiving to our Submarine Community.

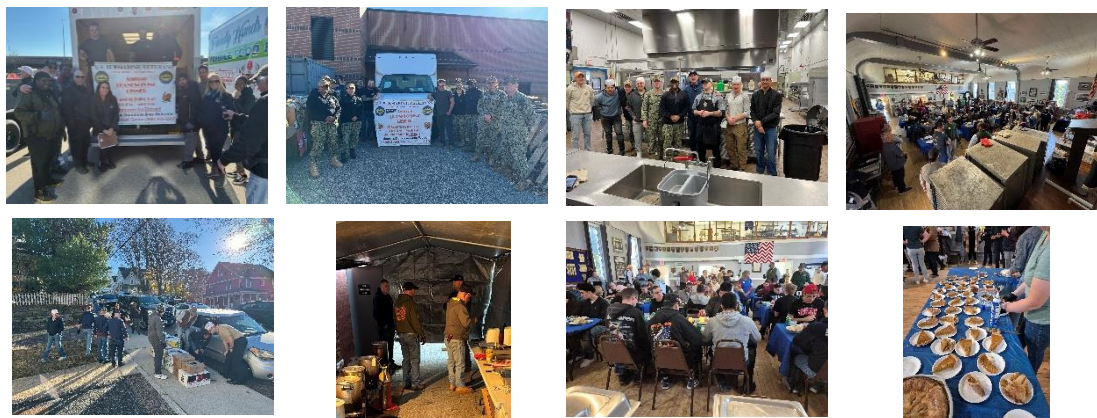
So what did the Team accomplish.

Prepped, packed, and delivered over 600 to-go meals to on-duty personnel, local first responders, Veterans, shut-ins, and neighbors.

Set up the hall for a family style dinner that served over 500 meals to our junior Sailors, their families, our SubVets family, neighbors, and volunteers. What is a little less clear is the number of to-go meals that

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were filled for the junior Sailors. A quick count had another 210 containers leave the hall in the hands of our future Submariners. Total for the meal, roughly 700 plus.



At 0700 Kevin Crissman, fired up eight fryers and for the next 8 hours the Team cooked 63 birds. That's over 1,200 pound of what Ben Franklin wanted as the symbol of America instead of the bald eagle.

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner would not be able to take place without the overwhelming support of Naval Submarine Base New London and specifically the Cross Hall Galley. This year they prepped, cooked, and sliced 52 turkeys, made over 15 trays of stuffing, peeled and mashed over 300 lbs. of potatoes, peeled and mashed over 300 lbs. of home grown, by SubVet member Richard Warnock, butternut squash.

Words cannot adequately describe the effort by all of the volunteers, simply put, Outstanding. You are all awesome members of our Submarine Community and family. Thank you one and all.



On Sunday 30 November our Old Salts returned to the galley cooking up a wonderful Sunday Brunch. With their great special, homemade sausage biscuits & gravy. Santa was also on hand to kick off the Holiday Season. Thanks again for support our submarine community.

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

Boat Reunion

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

graduations, the friendship, and the bonds that you make while onboard your boat will last forever. I want to thank the boats who have stopped by the club "your club" to renew friendships and to check on our many updates since your last visit.

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

Finding it difficult to find a good list of Submarine Reunions? So, the PAO has added a new calendar to the website for finding Submarine Reunions. Should you become aware of one, please send me the information and I will add it to this calendar. Jim Lawton, Webmaster / PAO – pao@ussvigroton.org

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**Vacant**

With the recent loss of our Shipmate, Robert Perritt, we are looking for someone to step forward and take over the remainder of Robert's term. If interested please let the EBoard know.

JR VICE COMMANDER**Jim Lawton**

Hello Shipmates,

Clubhouse hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 19:00

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

Kitchen Lunch hours are implemented as of September 2

Stop by and check out the vittles and say hello to Dawn Andrelli, our new cook!

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

Happy Hour

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

**The needs of a few do not outweigh the needs of the many.
Be Part of the Solution, VOLUNTEER**

Jim Lawton

Jr. Vice Commander

jrvice@ussvigroton.org

860.984.5497

BASE SECRETARY**David Frease**

Groton Base Boat Notes – December 2025



The November Meeting was attended by (in person (20) and Zoom (14)) for a total of 34 members.

David Frease
Base Secretary

secretary@ussvigroton.org

BASE TREASURER**Charlie Murray**

Happy Holidays

Thanks to all of you for your service and for donations this past year.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

Next up for renovations is the Ladies Room at the Bar “lower” level of the clubhouse, drawings completed 3 years ago will be updated and we will get revised estimates. If I were asked when this will be done, I’d have to say I hope in 2026.

THE CLUBHOUSE IS AVAILABLE

Keep us in mind for your planned celebrations and reunions, we offer our building for many submarine-related events, and we will continue to improve our facilities to provide services to our members and the submarine community.

Our Connecticut Liquor Laws limit the Clubhouse use to our members.

- Liquor commission did state that they use by groups like the Red Cross are allowed
- We have a number of requests by other groups, not directly related to our organization but key in supporting the Submarine and other Military organizations, so I am investigating other options including a review of other liquor licenses
 - o We strongly believe we are ONE community and should be available to support those that served

ADDITIONAL Coin is now available \$10 each no price increase

For 2026 – if you would like to submit a design please send it to the Treasurer so we can consider your ideas. As of mid-November I haven’t received any designs from membership so we will use a design that was considered but not choice in the past.



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@ussvigroton.org

Charlie Murray, Treasurer, 860 830 9605

COMMITTEE WORKING WITH THE TREASURER

Looking for:

Media coordinator

- This could include ensuring more visibility for members and the submarine community.

Fund raising coordinator.

- identify and manage other opportunities to help us in the Submarine Community

OPPORTUNITY.

DONATIONS – looking for 2 to 3 people to collaborate with me to manage our 2 donation appeals. Work isn't difficult and can be done from home. This is important because keeping the doors open depends on donations and the goodwill of our members.

MANAGEMENT OF OUR FUNDS – looking for at least 1 person to collaborate with me to ensure bills are paid and that funds are available to pay our staff. Work isn't difficult and can be done from home.

- This will include ensuring tracking and thank you messages to all our donors.

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. The balcony office cleaning and reorganizing efforts continue. In September we removed at least 4 garbage bags of identified obsolete financial records for shredding.
 2. Work on the 3rd floor will continue in October, with scrapping old paint off one area walls, repainting
 - a. Possible relocation of items to improve area usage
 3. Old auditorium chairs are being to 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.
 4. 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 member.

CHAPLAINS REPORT**Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo**

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

November was a busy time for the Honors Detail. Things were complicated by my absence and the absence of several Honors Detail members who were in Kings Bay for the WWII Memorial Service. But the rest of the team jumped in and made sure Honors Detail events went off without a hitch and that we continued to do the things that we do. My personal thanks to all who stepped in to either lead the Honors Detail or participate in our events.

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 26 October 2025.

The following members departed on Eternal Patrol during this period.

MM2(SS) Jeffrey Waters Departed on Eternal Patrol on 10 October. No Honors Detail

EN2(SS) Raymond Brown Departed on Eternal Patrol on 10 October. No Honors Detail

EMC(SS) Kenneth C. Vining Honors Detail held 24 November. Coordinated by Bob Sharpe. Detail Participants besides Bob were Alex Doucette; Bob Dulin, Bob Gustafson, Dennis Hopkins Paul Skalski, and Joe Wread.

In addition, the Honors Detail presented Honors for the following Shipmates who Departed on Eternal Patrol last month.

ET1(SS) Robert A. Perritt Memorial Service and Honors Detail Held 7 November. Coordinated by Jeff Walsh, Paul Grammer, and Charlie Murray. Other Detail Participants that I know of included Rob Davis, Alex Doucett, Dave Frease, Pedro Gonzales, David Gustafson, Bob Gustafson, Mike Hagerman, Dennis Hopkins, Jim Lawton, Durrell Rader, Jason Rusk, Gary Schmid, Paul Skalski and Joe Wread. I know that there were at least 2 others, but I don't know who they are.

EM1(SS) Tony Faella Memorial Service and Honors Detail held 18 November as part of the Holland Club Luncheon. Honors Detail participants besides myself were Alex Doucette, Bob Dulin, Jay Gray, David Gustafson, Bob Gustafson, Dennis Hopkins, Jim Lawton, Steve Ricard, Bob Sharpe, and Joe Wread

What we do matters The following was received from Suzan Perritt following Robert Perritt's Memorial Service and Honors Detail:

It was such a beautiful day. The tribute to Bob was beyond belief.

I can't thank you and all of the SubVets enough. Heather, Dawn, Hodge, and Ashley made the celebration of life beautiful and flow without a hitch.

I will always remember this day and all of the people who played a role into making it such a memorable occasion.

Thank you so very much!

Suzan

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 is deceased, that may have been a member, do not 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

Honors Detail Policy

From the Honors Detail Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM): "the Honors Detail will provide a Groton Base member, in good standing, an Honors Detail or an Eternal Light ceremony for the spouse, significant other or a family member." In the past we have provided Honors for Members who were not current Members of Groton Base. Moving forward, we will stick with the guidance in the PPM and only provide Honors for current members in Good Standing. We will continue to provide announcements of past member of Groton Base to keep you informed, but we will not be conducting Honors Details if they aren't a current member.

RED HAT CEREMONIES On 7 November we welcomed home the USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750) from her final deployment. Despite many folks being in Kings Bay, we had a great showing of SUBVETS at NEWPORT NEWS Homecoming. Alex Doucette and Brian Hague were in charge. Other participants were Rich Cheatham; Steve and Jean Chisolm; Earl Colella; David Frease; David Gustafson; Harold & Kirk Haugland; Dennis Hopkins; Jim Lawton; Paul Skalski and Joe Wread.

There will be one more Homecoming before Christmas. Watch your emails.

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

Groton Base Boat Notes – December 2025

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.

Special Request: Sometimes thoughts and prayers are necessary. Please read Chaplin Frank T. Vereb from USSVI Requin Base post regarding Requin & Groton Base members Eric Bookmiller's, Grandson.

Friends,

We walk along the Road of life learning along the way that the only certainty is change. Nothing stays the same. The change can be on the macro level, like a marriage, a new job, your first house, joining the Navy... The change can also be on the micro level, a few more wrinkles in your face, having to loosen your belt another notch, or realizing your hair is now more salt than pepper. Unfortunately, the change can be on the cellular level, too. Sometimes we encounter rough spots on that formerly-smooth road of life, and realize that our bodies have secretly betrayed us. For most folks, you find the longer you walk the road, the greater the chance that one of those cellular-level changes goes out of control and you find yourself having that Talk with your doctor about your new "battle" with cancer. So, you swallow hard (i.e., PRAY), sit down with your loved ones, and discuss the options for your particular circumstances. Generally, you have a sense of the road ahead. You can weigh the risks and come to some peace as to what kind of fight you have up ahead. Even the simplest cases are difficult, and this Road never comes with a guarantee. Now throw all that out the window. You are 1-year-old. You just started walking, way back not far past the starting line on the Road. Adults notice something off about how you hold your head. The test results come back that you are sick. Not just sick, but cancer. And not just cancer, but one of the most aggressive and rarest types of brain cancer shared by only a few dozen other people in the country. Operation. Tumor is removed, 100%. But remember that thing I said about the cancer being the most aggressive brain cancer one can get? Now starts the chemotherapy, and lots of it. Both of your parents have had to step away from their jobs and all you want to do is get out of the hospital and chase your big 3-year-old sister, Lilly, around the house (you just started walking!). You are 1-year-old. Your name is Tedy Bookmiller, grandson of Eric Bookmiller. Your Road of life has just started and the big changes seem like they never end (you have hair, YOU JUST STARTED WALKING). Now, other things are happening you do not understand. And your Road is getting bumpy, scary. Shipmates, this is more than a story or a line in the Binnacle List. This is a CALL TO PRAYER. This young man and his family are not alone. I ask that you take time to earnestly pray for Tedy, to ask God to shine his healing light on him and provide comfort to his family. Psalm 23:4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. God can go to places where the hand of man cannot. We ask God to flood Tedy with the grace of the Holy Spirit, driving this foul illness from his body, forever. Imbue Tedy with peace and strength to make it through the shadow, the scary times he does not understand. Touch the very souls of Tedy's parents, Eric Jr. and Sara, and guide them with the wisdom and fortitude they will need to care for Tedy as well as Lilly. A GoFundMe has been established to assist the family as they step away from their jobs to care for their son. Please consider donating. <https://gofund.me/8a33a6649>

In His Service,
Frank T. Vereb
412-328-3390



HOLLAND CLUB Report - John Carcioppolo

AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP WITHIN OUR SUBMARINE VETERANS' ORGANIZATION WHERE THE CORE REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY IS THE DESIGNATION "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES" FOR A MINIMUM OF FIFTY YEARS.

December 2025 Holland Club Report

Welcome to December. Hope that you had a Great Thanksgiving and now we race towards Christmas and the New Year.

LUNCHEONS Our November Holland Club Luncheon had 70 people in attendance, and we preceded the luncheon with a Memorial Service and Honors Detail to our friend Tony Faella. We started with a picture tribute of 103 pictures of Tony. After the picture tribute, we went into the Honors Detail and then proceeded with our Normal Luncheon. The National Anthem was sung by Chip Alger, and he brought some Aussies with him.

We had a great meal provided by Dawn. We had lots of help from Naval Submarine School, and they helped ensure that everyone was fed quickly. We are getting better at this.

Our Guest Speaker was Retired Captain Dave Roberts who is now the vice president of the COLUMBIA Project at EB. He provided great insight on what is going on at EB and pending expansion and growth in meeting our Submarine Force needs. It was a really great and enthusiastic interactive presentation.

50-50 was won by Shipmate Dennis Hopkins who won the 50/50 and donated \$165 back to the Holland Club. Thank you, Dennis.

Our next speaker is:

- **16 December Guest Speaker** Undersea Warfare Development Center (UWDC) RDML John Stafford. The luncheon will be cooked by Dominic Grimaldi. It will be pasta and meatballs, and a salad. Dominic will be assisted by a surprise guest cook.



Chris Faella, Steve Ricard & Betty Faella



Chris & Betty Faella



Naval Submarine School Students



Dave Roberts & John C.

Additional Pictures are here: <https://shutterfly.onelink.me/1053802476/kguyjptq>

HOLLAND CLUB 2026 The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly. If you are scheduled to go into the Holland Club in 2026. I will be working with Base Commander Steve Ricard to review the Membership information and put together the list for 2026.

If you qualified **in 1976** or earlier and **have not been inducted** into the Holland Club, there isn't much that you have to do. You will receive correspondence from us in the January time frame that starts the process.

The biggest thing that you must do before you receive that letter is to make sure that your dues are paid for 2026. You must be a member in good standing to be inducted into the Holland Club. **Reminder** that even if you are a Life Member of National, there is still a requirement for Base Dues. If you are unsure of your due's status, please contact Steve Ricard at commander@ussvigroton.org. All the information to renew your dues is on the Groton Base Web Page at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/dues-renewal>. You might want to consider Groton Base Lie Membership. The earlier that you renew, the easier it is for me and the Holland Club Committee if we don't have to bother you to renew or drop you from the list if you don't renew.

Also, if you haven't reviewed it recently, now would be a great time for you to review your information on the USSVI website at <https://ussubvets.org/home.asp>. Just click on USSVI Members and look up your name. Please make sure all your information including Mailing Address, email, phone number, Service Dates, Qual Date, boats served on/dates, and shore duty stations are all up to date. That information is the bulk of what we provide in the presentation at the Holland Club Ceremony.

Garbage In – Garbage Out. If you need help updating this information again, please ask Steve.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Safe/Happy New Year.

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

COLOR GUARD

Bob Sharpe

The color guard presented the colors during the Griswold Middle School Veterans Day Assembly on November 7.

The Color Guard presented the colors during Groton Base's Veteran Day celebration on November 11. This year we were joined by Naval Submarine School Australian sailors who flew the Australian National Flag in honor of their 'Memorial Day' celebration.

The Color Guard also presented the colors during Groton Base's Holland Club Luncheon on November 18. We were a precursor to an Eternal Patrol service provided for World War II Veteran EM1 (SS) Tony Faella.

As always, the detail needs new members to assist at scheduled events. If you are interested, please email me at bobsharpe@hotmail.com or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

MEMBERSHIP

Vacant

RENEW NOW FOR 2026

Reminder that it is time to renew annual membership. If you are a USSVI Life member, you still owe Groton Base dues (unless you are Groton Base Life). If you are trying to find out if you are a member in good standing, drop me a line commander@ussvigroton.org. Here is the link to renew your membership. [Dues Renewal | USSVI Groton](#)

New rates 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 – 1,146
 Life National Members – 862
 Base Life Members - 379
 Holland Club – 641
 Associate Members – 65

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

LOOKING FOR A MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

LETTER TO REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Shipmates,

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for annual dues is approaching.

Membership Dues Period: January 1 – December 31



Regular Members: Annual membership fee of \$80 (\$40 to National and \$40 to Groton Base)



USSVI Life Members: Renew Groton Base membership only (\$40)

Your dues are essential to the continued success of our organization. They help sustain operations, fund activities, and support our mission to “perpetuate the memory of our shipmates.” They also help us attract new, younger members to carry that mission forward.

To renew, please visit <https://www.ussvigroton.org/dues-renewal>.

You’ll find convenient payment options and downloadable forms. Be sure to review the dropdown menu for the correct renewal category. There you will also find the option to become a Life Member of both USSVI National and Groton Base.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our submarine community.

R/Steve

Steve Ricard

USSVI-Groton Base Commander

“First and Finest”

☎ 860-460-0963 commander@ussvigroton.org



PS: If you do not know your status, ask.

USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE” DMV LIAISON

Michael Hodges

Since last month’s report, I’ve received no new inquiries for our “Silent Service” license plate; the quietest month since I began serving the Groton Base in this position 11 months ago. However, one of our members emailed me with thanks, having received the plates he ordered with the hull number of his qual boat - a very happy occasion!



If you would like to display our unique “Silent Service” on your vehicle, please contact me and I would be glad to answer any questions and guide you through the process. If you have questions shoot a quick email to me at: ctsubvetplates@ussvigroton.org.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

Groton Base USSVI Scholarships

Applications for the Groton Base USSVI Scholarship are NOW Open

<https://www.ussvigroton.org/scholarship-info>

Eligibility for Consideration

A. Any student, between the age of 17 through 26, whose parent, stepparent, grandparent, step-grandparent or great-grandparent or step great-grandparent is a member or an associate member with a minimum of one year of membership in good standing of the (USSVI), Groton Base in the year of application, and has a “C” grade average or equivalent in the year of application.

B. Any student, between the age of 17 through 26, whose parent, stepparent, grandparent, step-grandparent or great-grandparent or step great-grandparent is a member or an associate member with a minimum of one year of membership in good standing of the (USSVI), Groton Base in the year of application, who has been home schooled and has an institution (church or private organization sponsored) certificate of completion of the home-schooling program.

If you have any questions please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair 860 989-1426 or Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Marian Galbraith

The Memorial Committee prepared for the Veterans Day/Remembrance Day Observance which was held at the Municipal Building on November 11. Many thanks to Sub School and Ceremonies for all they do to support the event. With the help of volunteers from Sub School we soon had all the lost boat flags moved to the Municipal Building, chairs set up and ready for Ceremonies who quickly set up the equipment for the observance.

Next on our agenda will be decorating the Flasher for the holidays. We’ll be watching the weather for the

best day to string lights at the Memorial shortly after Thanksgiving.

Anyone wishing to join the Memorial Committee should contact Marian Galbraith at mktgalbraith@gmail.com.

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Brian Hague

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, hope you all survived Thanksgiving. It was my 6th year volunteering and loved every minute of it. Hope to see all of you at the Christmas Party.

It's also a good time to start to winterize your life. Take advantage of the good weather to clean the gutters, trim some branches, and put some winter equipment in the vehicle i.e., jumper cables/jumper pack, blankets, a set of warm clothes, small toolbox, etc.

Don't get caught off guard when it comes to newer VA log-in requirements.
<https://news.va.gov/133159/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/>

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

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining 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/>

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)John Riley - National & Groton Base Chairman

"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.



On November 12th, Groton Base's Kap (SS) 4 Kid (SS) Team of Jonathan Nogaj ITRCS(SS), Heath Spenser ITRCS (SS) [both Active-Duty Submariners], and John Riley, conducted our annual KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) WEEK visit to the Kids at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.

This is the 16th consecutive year we have visited the Kids at this hospital around Veterans Day!



We had the opportunity to spend quality time with each Child, enjoying fun moments with them and their parents. They asked more questions than we typically get during a hospital visit, and we truly enjoyed providing answers to all of them!

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 were also excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls and K4K Teddy Bears!

This newest crop of Honorary Submariners was 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.



It was also gratifying for our K4K Team to receive "thanks for your service" wishes from the Kids, their parents, and the hospital staff!



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,
National & Groton Base K4K Chairman kaps4kids@gmail.com 203 668-9131

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Jim Lawton

Karaoke Night Success!

Sorry, no karaoke scheduled for December, our club is over – booked for Holiday Parties!





Events and are posted in the Clubhouse on the Raspberry display above the cash register, On the opening splash page of our website <https://www.ussvigroton.org> , and on our Events page <https://www.ussvigroton.org/events>.

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

Paul Skalski

Base Christmas Party
In lieu of December monthly meeting

December 6, 2025
Saturday 2:00 pm
RSVP by Wednesday December 3, 2025

\$30 per person paid in advance at the bar
 Basket raffle, 50/50 raffle
Photo Booth and Santa Courtesy of Creative Sounds

Coat Drive

*Looking for gently used or new coats, hats, gloves, scarves for children who come to school without.
 There are several area schools who need these items.*

*Donated items can be placed in the Christmas decorated box in the upstairs hall starting
 3 November 2025. Items will be accepted up to and including the Christmas party.
 (Elementary up to 6th grade, sizes 6 to 16)*

Agenda

Welcome by Base Commander Steve Ricard
Pledge of Allegiance
Opening Prayer

December Lost Boats
Eternal Patrol Ornaments after dinner

Menu

Shrimp cocktail
Charcuterie board

Roast beef, baked potato, vegetable, rolls/butter, coffee/tea, hot chocolate.
Asking everyone who is attending to bring a favorite dessert to share

See the bartender to RSVP
\$30 per person paid in advance at the bar

Monthly Dinner Schedule for 2026

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.*

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026			
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme
13-Jan-2026	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Mongolian barbecue
13-Feb-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Valentine Day Italian dinner
21-Mar-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Tom Connor's Corn Beef and Cabbage
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter dinner Polish night
2-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck
20-Jun-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck
4-Jul-2026	Saturday	noon	Groton 4th of July Parade Reception
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night
18-Sep-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Sock Hop Dance food from the 50's
16-Oct-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	October Fest German food
26-Nov-2026	Thursday		Annual Club Thanksgiving meal
5-Dec-2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party

USSVI GROTON BASE DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate

Last Name	First Name	DOB		Last Name	First Name	DOB
Adams	James A.	12/11		Juoni	Charles Wayne	12/11
Aiken	David R.	12/23		Kalfus	Aaron M.	12/21
Andersen	Brian	12/01		Kashar	Marc	12/27
Balcom	David G.	12/17		Kelly	Jeff	12/27
Baratko	David	12/15		Ketcham	John C.	12/31
Bastien	Steven B.	12/27		Key	Owen E.	12/02
Bell	Brian E.	12/09		Kilgore	Luke E.	12/03
Bennett	Charles D.	12/28		Kloner	John L.	12/26
Bennett	Douglas W.	12/09		Konakowitz	William B.	12/10
Bissey	Paul B.	12/18		Lang	Scott	12/16
Breen	Jason G.	12/03		Leahy	John T.	12/12
Brooke	Stephen V.	12/01		Masterson	Charles F.	12/30
Brown	Kenneth D.	12/29		Mazanec	Peter J.	12/08
Brown	Kie	12/19		Misarski	Manuel J.	12/28
Burkett, Jr.	Willard T.	12/28		Moulding	James F.	12/24
Burns	Robert J.	12/18		Moulson	John A.	12/15
Cedor Jr.	Edward J.	12/30		Myrill	Anthony E.	12/27
Chickering	Stephen D.	12/29		Oiler	Larry L.	12/09
Cohen	Barry	12/19		Palmer	John	12/13
Cook	Jesse	12/02		Potter	Timothy P.	12/31
Cunnally Jr.	John J.	12/05		Price	Robert J.	12/21
Custer	James T.	12/31		Radecki	Joseph J.	12/19
DeRose	Phillip A.	12/27		Ramey	William J.	12/21
Domahowski	Gerald	12/15		Ramos	Armando T.	12/19
Dumbauld	William B.	12/30		Rodgers	Thomas D.	12/30
Dwyer	William J.	12/02		Ross	Jeremiah D.	12/20
Egbert Jr.	Harold P.	12/12		Roye, Jr.	Walter William	12/12
Ersek	Bryan J.	12/19		Rusk	Jason	12/25
Falardeau	Leo O.	12/15		Schalk	George H.	12/26
Falman	Joseph J.	12/31		Schnabel	Herman W.	12/26
Ferguson	Wayne N.	12/28		Shannon	Tim J.	12/26
Finnegan	John	12/21		Short	William E.	12/03
Foret	David P.	12/19		Skiles	George H.	12/27
Forte	Joseph	12/23		Sniper	Robert J.	12/12
Franzoni	John C.	12/21		Spinner	James G.	12/13
Gillen	Barry F.	12/15		Standish	James	12/26
Gonsalves	Paul	12/04		Stephens	Robert G.	12/30
Green	Dale F.	12/08		Strauss	Barry R.	12/30
Hanson	Ronald E.	12/01		Stuart	Marvin Daniel	12/29
Harworth	John	12/05		Sulman	Bernie I.	12/31
Hay	Alexander M.	12/21		Terry	Donald F.	12/17

Healey	James M.	12/21		Thomas	Curtis L.	12/16
Heck	Jeff	12/19		Thompson	B. K.	12/29
Hedtke	James C.	12/23		Traxler	Thomas P.	12/18
Henry	William L.	12/09		Underkoffler	Chad	12/24
Hernandez	David M.	12/29		Vernon	Thomas E.	12/06
Hill	Gregory C.	12/03		Vernotzy	John R.	12/04
Holiman	Norman E.	12/10		Ward	John	12/13
Hooker, Jr.	Frederick M.	12/14		Weir	Paul J.	12/20
Hubert	Daniel C.	12/29		West	Thomas D.	12/21
Hyne	Edward	12/05		Williams Jr.	George H.	12/25
Johnson	Richard A.	12/26		Yacovino	Michael	12/30

USSVI GROTON BASE DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROL LIST

Date	Last Name	First Name		Date	Last Name	First Name
12/06/11	Alexander	Stanley		12/25/06	MacGregor	George
12/17/09	Anderson	Bruce		12/16/23	Madigosky	Stephen
12/26/20	Anthony	Ted		12/04/14	Marshall	Philip
12/03/18	Baldi, Jr.	Louis		12/11/19	McElroy	John
12/20/18	Bassette	Eugene		12/28/17	McGuire	Eldon
12/03/24	Beale	Gary C.		12/03/02	McPherson	Howard
12/22/22	Best	Darrell		12/11/24	Monson	Stephen
12/25/07	Brewer	Ronald		12/29/20	Newman	James
12/15/12	Brown	Ralph		12/07/19	Paskov	Kreso
12/01/08	Bryson	Allen		12/18/21	Patenaudo	George
12/15/07	Budding, Jr.	William		12/19/15	Plantz	Ernest
12/26/10	Carlen	William		12/03/12	Sanchez	Abraham
12/19/15	Cima, Sr.	Frank		12/12/21	Schraer	Mark
12/14/17	Davidson	Mickey		12/30/24	Seaton	James
12/13/21	Deer	William		12/01/13	Stanis	Raymond
12/10/15	Dersham	William		12/18/14	Stephens	Rollie
12/10/18	Diamantini	Edmond		12/16/15	Suttle	Glenn
12/27/19	Doherty	Michael		12/22/22	Tennant	Donald
12/30/20	Edwards	Jon-David		12/24/22	Terry	Doanld F.
12/13/18	Flynn	Stephen		12/22/18	Thompson	Frank
12/20/03	Hale	Donald		12/04/11	Trahan	Ronald
12/25/19	Hochstetler	Carl		12/14/08	Travisano	Benjamin
12/16/18	Holden	Frank		12/18/18	Walling	Lionel
12/04/20	Howard	John		12/01/17	Webb	LeRoy
12/06/07	Hurley	Thomas		12/01/04	Westhusin	Daniel
12/05/10	Jennerwein	John		12/29/10	White	Frank

12/14/18	Kruszka	Francis		12/27/16	Wilkes	Roy
12/11/12	Kurru	John		12/22/05	Wright, Sr.	Donald
12/24/21	Kuzel	Norman		12/15/16	Yering	Larry
12/02/22	LaCombe	Richard		12/28/04	Zeller, Jr.	Edward
12/24/20	Law	Donn		12/14/11	Zimble	James
12/21/23	Louthain	PW				



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.

Thames River Heritage Park

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THAMES VIEW PARK

The City of Groton's Thames View Park is located at 353 Thames Street on the river side of the street, next to the City's wastewater treatment facility.

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

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>



Garde Arts Center

Performance Theater in New London, Connecticut



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

Nautilus Submarine Force Museum



The Chapel On The Thames



The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families.

The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted who lost their lives in the service of their country during the Second World War. The COT was opened on December 3, 1944, 80 years ago and in it you will find many submarine related themes including beautiful stained-glass windows and pews labeled with brass plates to memorialize specific submarines

from World War II.

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