



United States Submarine Veterans Inc.
Groton Base "First and Finest"
Home of USSVI and Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse

March 1, 2022

I am asking your support in our Annual Appeal. Since 1966 USSVI National is the sole owner of the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse at 40 School Street in Groton Connecticut. Groton Base, "First and Finest," was the number one base in the organization. This is where USSVI originated. Groton was also the USSVI Corporate Headquarters for the first 30 years, until 2005 when the National Office moved to the state of Washington. Groton Base has been the caretaker of the building and the land it sits on ever since.

So, what is the Annual Appeal all about? The purpose of the Annual Appeal is to help support the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse with ongoing upkeep, capital improvements, and as required, overall club operations.

The Joe Negri Clubhouse built in 1895, and at nearly 125-year-old the building requires tender loving care. Groton Base annual dues and donations simply are not enough to meet the Clubhouse expenses. While, naturally, our goal is to continue to provide the services to our members, it has become harder for keeping the doors open. For example, the cost for utilities (electricity, heating oil and propane) is \$25,000 per year, maintenance, and exterior improvements \$33,000 last year.

In 2020 & 2021, we made significant repairs and renovations to the interior & exterior of our building. Beginning in 2022, we will work on necessary capital improvements.

The clubhouse is the only tangible asset USSVI owns, and because we are ALL members of USSVI; the building belongs to all of us! We must depend on our membership to help in meeting our financial obligations and keeping our doors open to you, the owners of the building.

I am personally asking each of you, as members and friends of USSVI, for your help this year and to send a donation. There is no minimum donation. Every little bit will help. You can make a one-time donation or if you like you may pledge monthly or quarterly donation installments.

Please complete the Annual Appeal response form enclosed and either donate online or mail all your donations to the **USSVI Clubhouse, Attention: USSVI Groton Base Annual Appeal, 40 School Street, Groton, CT. 06340.** Make out checks to **SUBVETS USSVI Groton Base.**

We are truly depending on your help making a difference. Thanking you in advance,

Steven Ricard, Commander USSVI Groton Base

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

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



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BUILDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020 – 2021

1. Meeting Hall - all walls & ceiling tiles, cleaned & repainted; walls sanded, repaired & repainted
2. Dining Room - carpet & light fixtures installed, walls repainted; relocated Wall of Honor; Joe Negri Shrine Box & Wall of Honor relocated; boat plaques reinstalled; new molding installed
3. Kitchen – new chill box, oven/range, deep fryer & flooring installed; new lighting in kitchen & pantry
4. Bar - foundation repaired, new wall framing & plywood walls, new ceiling tiles, new electrical & outlets; installed foam insulation; removed asbestos and installed new tile flooring
6. Memorabilia - plaques, pictures, models were catalog as electronic inventory.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 5 YEAR PERIOD

SHORT TERM WITHIN 2 YEARS – replace furnace, install hall bathroom, improve building access

LONG TERM NECESSARY IN 3 TO 5 YEARS – upgrade stairway & ladies’ bathrooms, improve access and accommodate families; new dishwasher

DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS WITH A SPECIFIC TIMEFRAME – install generator, repair hall windows, reinstall electricity to third floor; repaint foyer, install ceiling tiles

To supporting the Dominic “Joe” Negri Memorial Clubhouse Operating and Long-Term Capital Improvements. One-time donation (Cash or Check)

All donations: via PAYPAL at the Groton Base Website or US Mail

Website: <https://ussvigroton.org/donations>

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

Total amount of your donation: \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Your Name: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

City, State and Zip code: _____



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Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank You!

Your donations are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.

PHOTOS OF THE CLUB HALL BEING PAINTED. We took down the paneling, found wood that could be repainted. Ceiling had damaged areas repaired before we repainted. Every day a member worked to prepare for painting. Cost of items covered by members who worked



in this area. Photos of Hall being repainted. Rented scaffolding to reach 15.5-foot ceiling.

BADLY DAMAGED BAR EXTERIOR WALLS, MORTAR & INSULATION REMOVAL



EXTERIOR WALL REBUILD – THREE LAYERS OF OLD TILES & ASBESTOS REMOVED – NEW TILES INSTALLED





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EXTERIOR OF BUILDING – OLD WINDOWS NOW BRICKED IN, STOCCO

REPAINTED. Bricked in old windows, previously covered by plywood, painted the stucco, overall improvement with outside of Clubhouse, fire escape from third floor, not often used but required - bolts for steps and frame replaced





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Submarine Qualified

Never knew when night was through
or daytime had begun.
It was a life of silence
amidst the darkness of the run.

He was a submariner, tried and true,
ploughed the seas from pole to pole
spied on subs and other ships of war
to protect our nation's security role.

His sailing days are over now,
this he accepts with degree of regret.
A Submariner's soul still lives strong
somewhere deep inside never forgets.

He remembers with a smile,
his first voyage pulling topside duty
through a stormy sea, looking up at dark waves
beautiful yet menacing and spooky.

Can still hear the klaxon's call, prepare for initial
dive. The bow planes turned towards the deep
to check if all's tied down. Grab something
to hold on to - survive the rock and roll.

Longs to go to sea again,
knows he never will,
depths are for the young not the old
with pains and pills.

There is not much he has done in life
that would cause men to take note.
But he is proud to have sailed with some fine
men who helped keep this Country afloat.



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Salt still flows through his veins,
mind and body will remain unfree
telling tales of tricky pursuits to young
while his heart still remains captive of the sea.

Michael F. Lepore, LCDR, US Navy, Poet Laureate Glastonbury
March 1, 2022 "To Members & Friends of Subvet Groton Base"