



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



BOAT

N O T E S



For those who served beneath the waves

G R O T O N B A S E

Groton, Connecticut

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

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Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

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[Address Changes](#)

Please always keep your address up to date. Having a correct address allows us to not only ensure Boat Notes gets to you, but all other important correspondence. It also allows us to save money on unnecessary postage.

[Deadlines for Submission](#)

Draft due 20th of each month by EBoard Members and Committee Chairs.
The official newsletter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Groton Base published monthly.

[Contacting USSVI Groton Base](#)

US Mail:

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



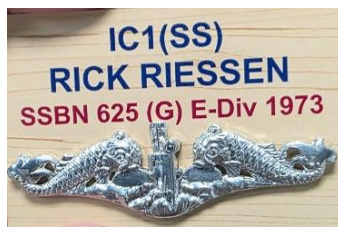
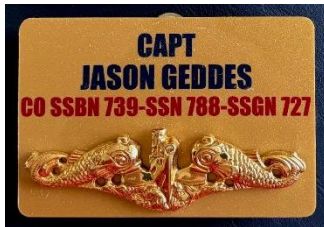
Greeting from the Base Commander



Welcome to June, one of the busier months for the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse. We all have important milestones in our lives. For a Submariner, induction into the prestigious Holland Club is one said milestone. The Groton Base Holland Club Induction Ceremony is a spectacular event held at Dealey Center at the Submarine Base New London, for Shipmates being qualified in submarines, 50 years or more. The induction brings submariners from a number of USSVI Bases to be inducted into the "Hall of Fame" where for some, where their careers began. It's an amazing collaboration between our organization, USSVI Groton Base and

Subbase New London. So whether you have already been inducted into the Holland Club or it's still a few years away, come join us to celebrate this Submariner milestone.

Speaking of the Holland Club and being qualified in submarines for 50 years or more. A fellow Submariner, Rick Riessen from the Placoderm Chicago and Groton Base has started a Dolphin Legacy Program. This is where a USSVI Submariner forwards his earned Dolphins to a boat, and eventually they will be presented to a newly qualified Sailor. So, if you have an extra set, forward them to Rick and identify the boat you would like to have them sent. Rick has the dolphins mounted to a card similar to the ones below and sent to the boat. Once the CO and the COB have presented your dolphins to a newly qualified Submariner pictures will be taken and forwarded to you.



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.

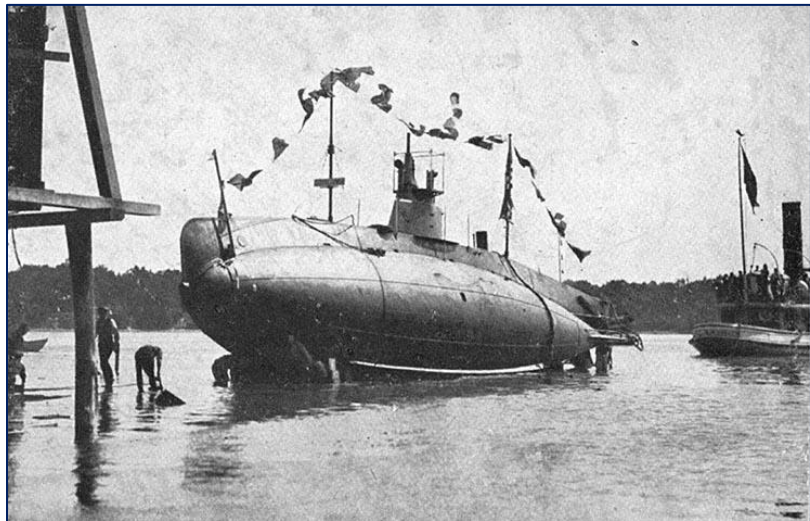
Scorpion Remembrance and Cross Hall Galley

While June does not carry a single defining loss like Scorpion in May, it holds its own solemn anniversaries. On 3 June 1943, USS R-12 was lost off Key West during a training dive, taking 42 men. Eleven days later, on 14 June, USS Runner (SS-275) was declared overdue and presumed lost. And on 18 June 1945, USS Bonefish (SS-223) was sunk in the Sea of Japan with all hands.

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.

The commissioning of *USS Skipjack (SS-24)* in June 1911 and *USS L-1* in June 1915 marked a turning point in the professionalization of the U.S. Submarine Force. Before these boats, American submarines were experimental, short-range, mechanically fragile, and manned by sailors who often learned their trade through improvisation rather than formalized instruction. Skipjack and the L-boats represented the Navy’s first sustained effort to build a standardized, reliable undersea fleet and to create a cadre of trained submariners capable of operating them.

Skipjack was part of the C-class lineage but incorporated improvements that reflected lessons from the earliest Holland and Plunger boats. She introduced more reliable propulsion, better internal layout, and incremental safety improvements. More importantly, she served as a platform for developing early submarine doctrine—how to dive safely, how to manage battery hazards, and how to coordinate submerged operations with surface forces. Her crew belonged to the first generation of sailors who began to see submarining not as an oddity, but as a profession.





L-1, commissioned four years later, represented a leap forward. The L-boats were the first American submarines designed with wartime patrol endurance in mind. They featured improved habitability, more powerful diesels, and a more stable diving platform. They also served as training boats for the men who would later command and crew the S-boats and Fleet Boats of World War II. Many future WWII skippers—men like Dick O’Kane, Mush Morton, and Slade Cutter—trained on L-class successors whose procedures, safety culture, and expectations

were shaped by the L-boats.

Together, Skipjack and L-1 helped transform the Submarine Force from a small experimental detachment into a professional community. They laid the groundwork for standardized training, qualification processes, and the early cultural norms that would define the Silent Service for decades.

June 1944 stands as one of the most tactically significant months of the Pacific submarine campaign. Three boats—USS Harder (SS-257), USS Cavalla (SS-244), and USS Seahorse (SS-304)—demonstrated the operational maturity, aggressiveness, and precision that the Submarine Force had developed after two years of hard fighting.

Harder, under Commander Sam Dealey, conducted one of the most audacious patrols of the war. Between 6 and 10 June, Harder sank five Japanese destroyers in rapid succession near Tawi Tawi. These kills were not only tactically impressive—they directly influenced the timing of the Japanese fleet’s movement

before the Battle of the Philippine Sea. Dealey's aggressive tactics, willingness to close inside destroyer screens, and mastery of submerged evasion became case studies in submarine warfare.



Cavalla, on her first war patrol, achieved one of the most consequential sinkings of the war. On 19 June 1944, during the opening phase of the Philippine Sea battle, Cavalla penetrated the Japanese carrier screen and torpedoed Shōkaku, one of the last surviving Pearl Harbor strike carriers. Cavalla's attack removed a major Japanese capital ship from the battle and demonstrated the Submarine Force's ability to integrate with fleet operations.



Seahorse, commanded by Slade Cutter, completed a patrol marked by disciplined aggression and tactical finesse. Cutter's crew executed multiple successful attacks, evaded prolonged depth-charging, and demonstrated the kind of calm, coordinated control that characterized the best boats of 1944. Together, Harder, Cavalla, and Seahorse showed that by mid-1944 the Submarine Force had reached full tactical maturity. Torpedo reliability had improved, skippers were experienced, and the force had developed a culture of initiative, precision, and controlled aggression. June 1944 was not just a month of victories—it was proof that the Silent Service had become a decisive arm of the Pacific War.



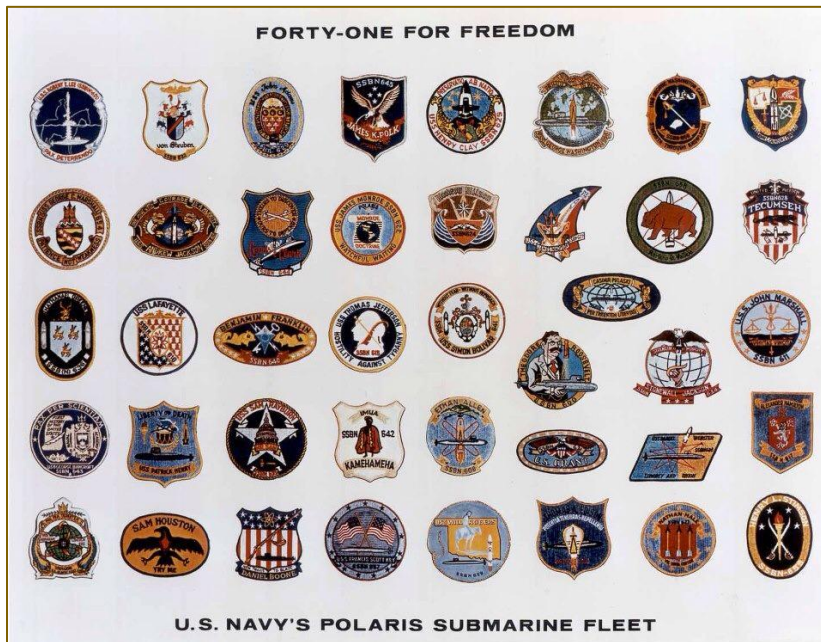
The commissioning of USS George Washington (SSBN-598) on 30 December 1959—but launched and completed major milestones in June 1959—marked one of the most profound strategic shifts in U.S. naval

history. George Washington was the world's first operational ballistic-missile submarine, the platform that created the sea-based leg of the nuclear triad and fundamentally reshaped Cold War deterrence.

Originally laid down as an attack submarine of the Skipjack class, George Washington was lengthened to accommodate the new Polaris missile compartment. This conversion represented an extraordinary engineering achievement: in less than four years, the Navy and industry partners designed, tested, and deployed a submarine capable of launching nuclear missiles from beneath the ocean's surface.



June 1959 was the month when the boat completed her final construction milestones, missile compartment integration, and pre-commissioning trials—events that signaled the arrival of a new strategic capability. When she conducted the first successful submerged launch of a Polaris A-1 missile on 20 July 1960, she validated the concept of a survivable second-strike force.



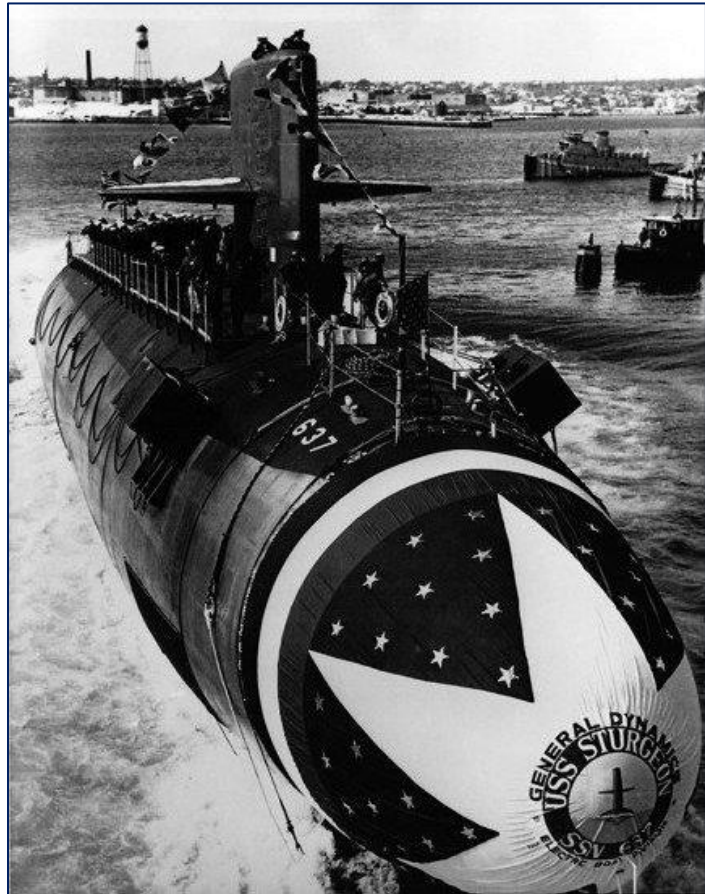
George Washington's impact was immediate. She and her sister boats began continuous deterrent patrols, ensuring that the United States possessed a nuclear force that could not be destroyed in a first strike. This stability became the foundation of Cold War strategy. The "41 for Freedom" fleet that followed—Ethan Allen, Lafayette, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin classes—owed their existence to the success of George Washington.

Her commissioning marked the moment when submariners became central to national strategy. The Silent Service was no longer just a tactical arm—it became a strategic one, responsible for the most consequential mission in the U.S. military. June 1959 thus

represents the birth of the modern ballistic-missile submarine force and the beginning of a new era in global deterrence.

When USS Sturgeon (SSN-637) was commissioned on 3 March 1967—with major acceptance milestones completed in June—she became the lead boat of a class that would define Cold War fast-attack operations for nearly three decades. The Sturgeon class represented a major evolution in submarine design, combining improved quieting, advanced sonar, and greater endurance to meet the demands of undersea surveillance, intelligence collection, and anti-submarine warfare.

Sturgeon was designed during a period when the Soviet Navy was rapidly expanding its submarine fleet. The U.S. needed a platform capable of tracking increasingly quiet Soviet boats, operating under the Arctic ice, and conducting long, covert patrols. The Sturgeon class delivered exactly that. With improved machinery isolation, a redesigned sail, and advanced BQQ-5 sonar, Sturgeon could detect and trail adversary submarines at ranges previously impossible. June 1967 marked the point when Sturgeon completed her early operational evaluations and began shaping the tactics that would define the class. Her missions included intelligence gathering, acoustic data collection, and under-ice operations—tasks that required precision, stealth, and endurance. The Sturgeon class became the backbone of the fast-attack fleet, performing sensitive missions that remain classified even today.

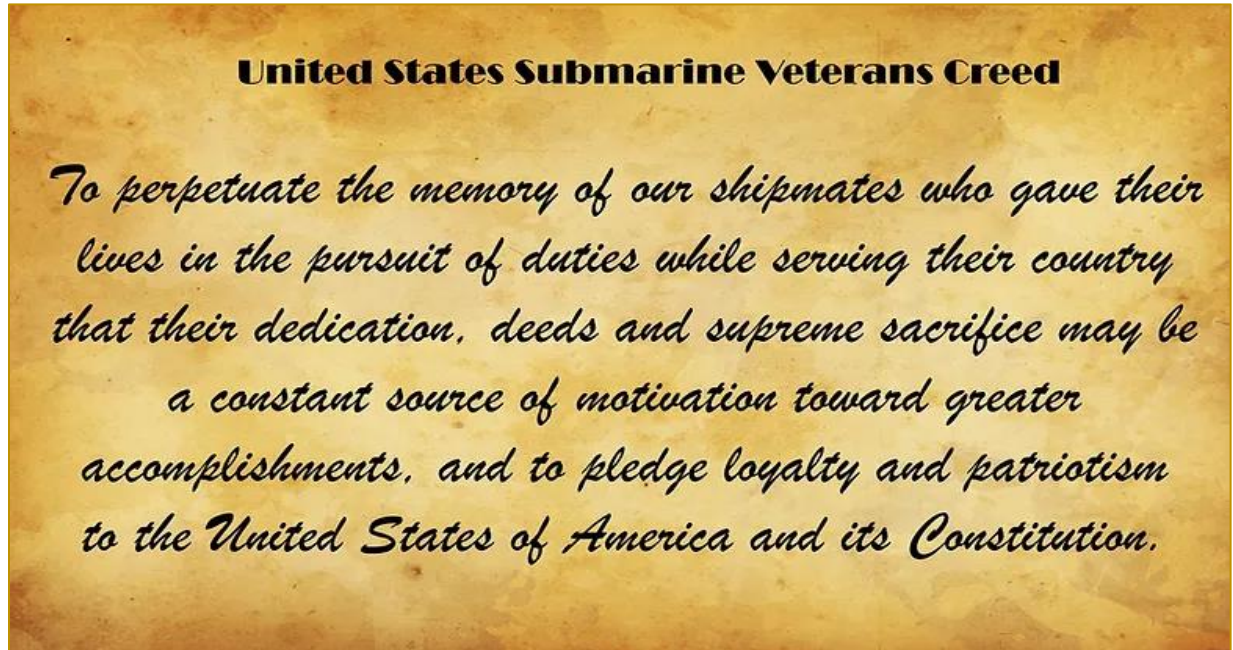


Sturgeon bridged the gap between the early nuclear boats (Nautilus, Skate, Skipjack) and the later Los Angeles class. They introduced the operational patterns—long deployments, intelligence-driven patrols, and close tracking of Soviet submarines—that became hallmarks of Cold War undersea competition.

By the time the last Sturgeon-class boat decommissioned in the 1990s, the class had shaped an entire generation of submariners. June 1967 thus marks not just the arrival of a new submarine, but the beginning of the modern fast-attack mission set that continues today in the Los Angeles, Seawolf, and Virginia classes.

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 – June

	USS Herring (SS-233)	Lost on June 1, 1944, with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sunk a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.
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Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

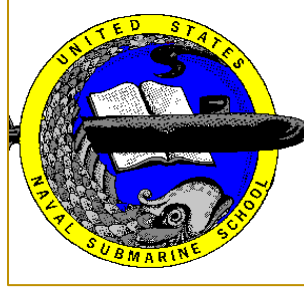
	<p>USS R-12 (SS-89)</p>	<p>Lost on June 12, 1943, with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.</p>
	<p>USS Golet (SS-361)</p>	<p>Lost on June 14, 1944, with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.</p>
	<p>USS Bonefish (SS-223)</p>	<p>Lost on June 18, 1945, with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.</p>
	<p>USS S-27 (SS-132)</p>	<p>Lost on June 19, 1942, when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.</p>
	<p>USS O-9 (SS-70)</p>	<p>Lost on Jun 20, 1941, with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.</p>

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

	<p>USS Runner (SS-275)</p>	<p>Lost between June 26 & July 4th, 1943, with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war-patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.</p>
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Plan of the Month – June 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
6/1	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
6/5	0900	Event	BESS Graduation (Dealey Center) – Steve Ricard
6/5	1700	Event	Holland Club Induction - Old Salts Steak Dinner
6/6	0900	Event	Holland Club Induction Ceremony – Dealey Center
6/6	1200	Event	Holland Club Induction Reception - Clubhouse
6/7	1000	Event	Old Salts Brunch
6/12	2000	Event	Karaoke With DJ Jammin' Jim
6/16	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
6/18	0900	Event	BESS Graduation – Jeff Walsh
6/18	1100	Event	SOAC Graduation – Bob Sharp
6/19	0900	Event	New London Veterans Coffeehouse with Breakfast
6/20	1800	Event	June Monthly Dinner
6/28	1000	Event	SubSchool Chiefs Brunch



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 May 8th and 21st.

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 Wahoo SS 238 BESS Class 26220

The following information is for BESS Class 26220, named after the USS Wahoo SS 238. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



USS Wahoo (SS-238) was a Gato-class submarine, the first United States Navy ship to be named for the wahoo. Construction started before the U.S. entered World War II, and she was commissioned after entry. Wahoo was assigned to the Pacific theatre. She gained fame as an aggressive and highly successful submarine after Lieutenant Commander Dudley Walker "Mush" Morton became her skipper. She was sunk by Japanese aircraft in October 1943 while returning home from a patrol in the Sea of Japan. Wahoo's keel was laid down 28 June 1941 at the Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, California. She was launched on 14 February 1942 (sponsored by Mrs. William C. Barker Jr.) and commissioned on 15 May 1942 with Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Marvin G. "Pinky" Kennedy (Class of 1929) in command. Lieutenant Richard O'Kane joined the pre-commissioning crew and served as her executive officer (XO) on five war patrols under Kennedy and Morton (O'Kane later received a Medal of Honor for his service in USS Tang).

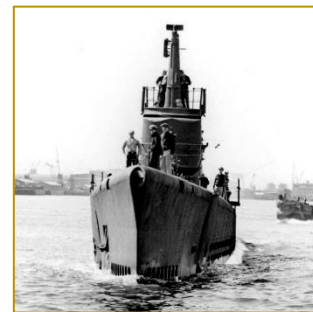
On 31 December, Lieutenant Commander Dudley W. “Mush” Morton took command of Wahoo. Morton served as executive officer for Wahoo’s first two war patrols. Before departing on the boat’s third war patrol, Morton gave a rousing pep talk to the crew. “Wahoo is expendable. We will take every reasonable precaution, but our mission is to sink enemy shipping. Now, if anyone doesn't want to go along under these conditions, just see the yeoman. I am giving him verbal authority now to transfer anyone who is not a volunteer. Nothing will ever be said about you remaining in Brisbane.” Not one member of the crew asked for a transfer. Morton was considered an innovative leader and one of his initiatives was to have his executive officer, Lt. Dick O’Kane, man the periscope. Few captains had enough faith in a junior officer to operate the periscope, but Morton saw something in O’Kane. Later in the war, O’Kane would receive the Medal of Honor for his leadership as commander of USS Tang (SS-306).

On 21 October, Wahoo was to head for home, but nothing was ever heard from Morton or Wahoo again. According to Japanese military records, Morton sank four ships amounting to about 13,000 tons on their final patrol. Japanese records also reported on 11 October that an antisubmarine aircraft discovered a surfaced submarine where Wahoo was estimated to be located and attacked, dropping three depth charges.

The loss of Morton sent shock waves among the submarine force and triggered a change in tactics in the Sea of Japan. It would not be until June 1945 that submarines would return, and that was with special mine detecting equipment. In postwar accounting, “Mush” Morton sank 19 ships for approximately 55,000 tons of enemy shipping. In terms of individual ships sunk, he was one of the top three skippers of the war. Morton received another Navy Cross posthumously. Wahoo earned six battle stars for her World War II service.

More on the Tennessee can be found <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/wahoo-ss-238.html> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Wahoo_\(SS-238\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Wahoo_(SS-238))

On May 8th, the BESS Class named after USS Wahoo SS-238 had 37 students with a class average was 79% and 5 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, and FT1(SS) Price. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool Commanding Officer, Captain Chance Litton. Guest Speaker was TCMC(SS) Sean DeGraff, SubSchool Staff and Chaplain, LT Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member, Gary Schmid. was the Sub Vet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Xavier Polanco. 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 Estaban Vargas to SA(SU) Alexsei L Wiemers. 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 Leading Seaman Benjamin J Hinge, by Sub School CO, Captain 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 Master Chief DeGraff to SN(SU) Mark Alvin Nonato,. This award is giving 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 Sailor joining our organization when they receive their fish.



USS Scorpion SSN 589 Bess Class 26240



The following information is for BESS Class 26240, named after the USS Scorpion SSN-589. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was a Skipjack-class nuclear-powered submarine that served in the United States Navy, the sixth vessel and second submarine to carry that name.

Scorpion's keel was laid down 20 August 1958 by General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut. She was launched 19 December 1959, sponsored by Elizabeth S. Morrison, the daughter of

Lieutenant Commander Maximilian Gmelich Schmidt, the final commander of the similarly-named World War II-era USS Scorpion (SS-278) which had been lost with all hands in 1944. The newer Scorpion was commissioned 29 July 1960, with Commander Norman B. Bessac in command.

Norfolk was Scorpion's homeport for the remainder of her career, and she specialized in developing nuclear submarine warfare tactics. Varying roles from hunter to hunted, she participated in exercises along the Atlantic Coast, and in Bermuda and Puerto Rico operating areas. From June 1963 to May 1964, she underwent an overhaul at Charleston.

Scorpion imploded and sank on May 22, 1968. She is one of two nuclear submarines that the U.S. Navy has lost, the other being USS Thresher. She was one of the four submarine disappearances in 1968, the others being the Israeli submarine INS Dakar, the French submarine Minerve, and the Soviet submarine K-129.

The wreckage of the Scorpion remains in the North Atlantic Ocean with all her armaments and her nuclear reactor.

More on the USS Scorpion (SSN 589) can be found <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/scorpion-ssn-589.html>, and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Scorpion_\(SSN-589\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Scorpion_(SSN-589)).

On May 21st the BESS Class named after USS Scorpion (SSN 589) had 71 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 CMDCM Jacob Green, Command Master Chief for Submarine Readiness Squadron (SRS) 32. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Kevin Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.



Region Director Northeast STSCS(SS) Jeff Walsh USN Retired, was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Jacob R. Dove. 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 MMACM(SS) Estaban Vargas to SR(SU) Aihdeon T Kimbrough. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.



Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026



The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to HM2(SU) Matthew H Stier, 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 CMDCM Jacob Green to SR(SU) Alexander Gonzalez. 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.



Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

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
26260	USS Holland (SS-1)	05 June 2026	CMC	Steve Ricard	
26280	USS George Washington (SSBN-598)	18 June 2026	DOT	Jeff Walsh	
26300	USS Barb (SS-220)	02 July 2026	DOT		
26320	USS Bonefish (SS-223)	17 July 2026	XO	Bud Atkin	
26340	USS Parche (SS-384)	31 July 2026	CMC	John Carcioppolo	
26360	USS Nautilus (SS-168)	14 August 2026		Gary Schmid	
26380	USS Finback (SS-230)	28 August 2026			
26400	USS Seadragon (SS-194)	11 September 2026		Bob Sharpe	
26420	USS Archerfish (SS-311)	25 September 2026		John Carcioppolo	
26440	USS Barbero (SS-317)	08 October 2026			

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26040	24 July 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	18 September 2026	Bob Sharpe	
26060	13 November 2026		

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26020	18 June 2026	Bob Sharpe	
26030	14 August 2026		
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>.

★★★★★
HAPPY HOUR
Qualified Submarines?
Tuesday - Friday | **3- 6 PM**
Ask about Discounts on our
Sips & Small Bites Menu
50% OFF
YOUR SUBVETS CLUB
40 School Street, Groton
(860) 445 - 5262

On Saturday 2 May the 151st Kentucky Derby was off and running at SubVets Groton Base. The potluck dinner was attended by over 20 members and guests. A big thanks to everyone who provided a dish for this time-honored race. It was an exciting race with Golden Tempo winning the race with time 2:02.27. As a result, Golden Tempo trainer Cherie DeVaux became the first woman trainer to win the Derby.



On Monday, 4 May 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.



Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, June 1st at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

Friday, May 8th SubVets Groton Base was present at the Grand Reopening of the Groton Walmart where we were generously awarded a \$1,000 Walmart Spark Good Grant.



Friday, May 8th Chef Dom, and Old Salts cooked up a favolosa cena di spaghetti. There were over XL diners that enjoyed the fruits of Dom's hard work. Great job Old Salts!



On Friday, May 15th, several SubVet members attended the reopening of the New London Veterans Coffeehouse & Breakfast. Please join us on the 3rd Friday of each month.



Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

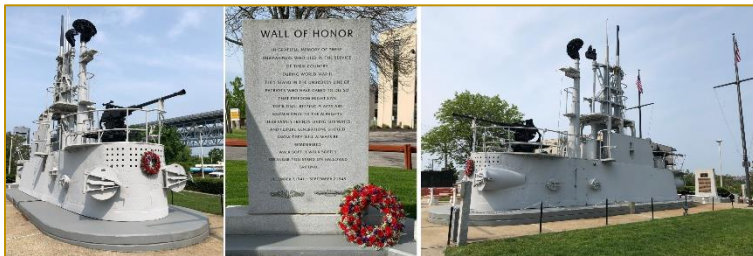


On Sunday, May 17th, SSEP cooked up a fantastic brunch with over 35 happy diners. Big thanks to the SSEP crew for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive. BTW great biscuits and gravy.



On Tuesday, May 19th, 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 Master Chief Tom Barnhart, USN Retired who was onboard to talk about the USS Groton Sail project.

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



On Wednesday, May 20th, another planting was successfully completed at the Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial East. It was a very hot day, but "Many hands make light work".

We were very fortunate to have 11 students from Naval Submarine School help out. A big shout out to the

following: ITR Gatch, TM Jackson, TM Yule, TM Jimenez, TM Lambert, TM Rodriguez, TM Gill, TM Gonzales, STS Schings, ITN German and ETV Diaz. The Memorial Committee headed by Marion Galbraith along with Dick Warnock, Rob Davis, Charlie Levandowski, Melissa Mathis, Dee Carcioppolo, Charlie McMullen, Chris Callahan, Bob Sharpe, Elaine, and Steve Ricard did a fantastic job again this year to get the Flasher Memorial ready for summer.

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026



On Monday, May 25th, Groton Base held our annual Memorial Day/Scorpion Remembrance ceremony at the Groton Municipal Building (due to inclement weather). The ceremony was very well attended by SubVet Members, City of Groton Mayor, Jill Rusk, State Representative, Dan Gaiewski, members of Groton Elks Lodge 2163 and friends and neighbors of our Submarine Community. Our guest speaker was Captain Craig Litty, 54th Commanding Officer of the US Naval Submarine Base New London. CRD Kevin Wilkinson, Chaplain SubSchool was on hand to provide the

Invocation and Benediction. Laying of the wreath was conducted by Meaghan Kuen escorted by Dick Warnock. After the ceremony everyone (who wanted a good burger and sides) went over to the clubhouse for a great reception. A big thanks to Dee, Fran, Sue, Shirley, Elaine, Estelle, Lorraine, Gretchen, Sophia, Marilyn, and Obie for serving up delicious dishes prepared by the above-mentioned people for preparing and serving up some great food and side dishes. Thank you for all you do to support our special events.



On Sunday, May 31st, SubSchool Chiefs cooked up a fantastic brunch with over 70 diners slapping on the feedback. 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 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>

Finding it difficult to find a good list of Submarine Reunions? The PAO has added a new calendar to the website for finding Submarine Reunions. Should you become aware of one, please send me the information and I will add it to this calendar.

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

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

Senior Vice Commander

A big thanks to Dominick Grimaldi for submitting his name for Senior Vice Commander.

Junior Vice Commander

Hello Shipmates,

We are considering reducing the hours at the club, as we have been seeing a lack of customers, specifically on Tuesday, but we are also thinking about closing early on Wednesday and Thursday. We cannot pay our bills unless you fill in the seats. We encourage you to show up and provide me with feedback on how we can improve to get you there!

Summer Clubhouse Hours (As of March 31, 2026)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 19:00

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

Kaitlyn Hodge is now 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!

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

Happy Hour

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

SubSchool Chiefs Hosted Brunch! Thank You So Very Much!

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026



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

Elections were held on 04 May, and the following members were nominated and elected:

BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER - Dominic Grimaldi

BASE SECRETARY- Alvin Kinsall

David Frease

Base Secretary secretary@ussvigroton.org

Base Treasurer

MAY – we moved additional Cash funds from Bank of American to Edward Jones, in order to receive a high rate of return. These funds are still insured.

NEW FOR JUNE

In Planning – 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. It will be scheduled

ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

Final days are near, please donate now if you can. We appreciate any additional donations by June 30th. Thanks for all you do for us.

Notice: 18 checks deposited on 3/28 did not clear the bank but were redeposited on 5/29. We apologize for this inconvenience to donors.

FINANCIALS:

Financial information thru May 30 will be posted on the website

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, or Venmo

Future donations:

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

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

- 1st level ladies' room – we are still short of funds to do this work
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer (I hope this is done very soon)
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors (over the summer)
- 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 – we are checking on this now

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.

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

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 or
 - 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 :

Alan Williams for frequent cleanup and checking on equipment
- in June he will spray for carpenter ants
- working with A/C to insure its ready for the summer months
Larry Williamson for constant repairs on our front door

Groton Base Boat Notes – June 2026

Membership Chairman
Jim Kading
kadingj@hotmail.com

Base Chaplin



Chaplains Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064
[Gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net)

The following is the Honors Detail activity from April 26th. It was a slow month, and we like slow months when talking about members who departed on Eternal Patrol.

The following members departed on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter. **LCDR William “Bill” Fatek Jr.** Departed on Eternal Patrol 03 April 2026. Honors were held on May 9, 2026, Present were John Carcioppolo, Earl

Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Dennis Hopkins, Al Kinsall

ETCM(SS) Raymond Zujus Departed on Eternal Patrol on 29 April. Honors were held on 7 May. Unfortunately, I misplaced the list of Honors Details Participants. My apologies to the team.

The information for the Eternal Patrol bios comes from the USSVI National Webpage Membership section. What you have there is what I put out. If you don't have all the right stuff, then that's what we are going to put out. Additionally, some of the info comes from old bios from Holland Club inductions. If your info on the National Web Page is not up to date either update it or ask Base Commander Steve Ricard at commander@ussvigroton.org. Also, with regards to information, if we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the information or present Honors. Please ensure that your families know that when you have passed to contact Groton Base Chaplain Earl Colella 734-730-1026 earl.colella@comcast.net or John Carcioppolo 860-514- 7064 gumba700@comcast.net and if possible, provide a link to the obituary.

Keep your eyes open. If you know of a member passing or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed and maybe a member don't hesitate to pass that info along. We will figure out if he is a member and conduct business accordingly. A link to the obituary is always good to have.

The sooner we know the information the timelier we can react and put out the notices and hopefully have the Honors Detail render honors. All too often we find out about the passing of a member long after the funeral and do not get the chance to provide honors for our Shipmates.

We are always looking for potential new members of the Honors Detail to supplement those who participate. If you are interested in being part of the Honors Detail all you really have to do is let me know and show up. We prefer you to have the SUBVETS vest, but that is not a hard requirement. If you are interested in joining the Honors Detail, please let me know

RED HAT CEREMONIES

I often receive requests to be added to the Homecoming notifications. I do not have a specific email list for homecomings. I just send the notifications to the entire membership, so I don't miss anyone. If you get all the regular Base Broadcasts from the Base Commander, Eternal Patrol Broadcasts, etc. etc. then you should get the Homecoming notifications. If you are not getting the Broadcasts, you will not get the Homecoming notifications, and you should contact the Base Commander to ensure that we have the correct email address on file.

Also, due to classification restrictions I can only put the word out 2 days in advance. However, I use the Welcome Home signs at the front gate of the Naval Submarine Base as a guide. If the signs go up that's my signal to send out the notification.

With that said, there will be Homecoming in mid to late June. Watch your emails.

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.

June 2026 Holland Club Report Welcome to Summer 2026.

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon in May. As always, we had a GREAT SUPPORT from our students at Naval Submarine School. Many thanks to Angela Love, Jacob Dove, Anthony Guida, David Cabrera, Derwin Copeland, Erik Eidson, Ranya Merrifield, and Dean Miceli for your time and support.

I was out of town on travel and Carl Franzioni ran the luncheon. So many thanks to Carl for covering and running the meeting and to Kimberly Beagle, Dee Carcioppolo, Bob Dulin and Jim Lawton for their assistance.

Our guest speaker was Tom Barnhart from the USS GROTON Sail Foundation who gave a great presentation on where they stand and the help that is needed. Many thanks Tom. After the presentation, it was unanimously decided to purchase a paver from Groton Base Holland Club to support the project. If you would like additional information or to purchase your own paver go to <https://grotonsail.com> The 50/50 was won by Alex Doucette who donated the \$144 back to the Holland Club



SUBSCHOOL VOLUNTEERS



Tom Barnhart Groton Sail Association



The Gatekeepers Dee Carcioppolo



Heather Norton

Bob Dulin



Carl Franzoni and Tom Barnhart



Gretchen, Betty & Lorraine

Additional Pictures are here: <https://linkit.shutterfly.com/wKdtKH>

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **16 June Guest Speaker** - Captain Philip Castellano Commander, Submarine Squadron Twelve
- **21 July Guest Speaker** – **Tentative**, CDR Brown, CO, USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790)

HOLLAND CLUB 2026 We are one week away from this year's Holland Club Ceremony. The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. This event is the culmination of 7 months of planning, preparation, and hard work by many people. Our goal from the start was to make this ceremony as significant as the day these inductees initially received their dolphins 50 or more years ago. your calendars and plan accordingly.

Our final count is 49 inductees for this year's ceremony. 16 will not be attending and 34 Inductees will be on the stage.

The ceremony is open to all members of Groton Base and your guests to attend. At this point our guest lists have been turned into SUBASE Security. If you are not on the guest list and want to attend, you will need to partner with someone who has base access.

There will be a reception at the clubhouse following the ceremony. I need your support for the reception. I'm looking for donations of potluck side dishes or desserts. Please contact Dee Carcioppolo if you would like to bring a dish/dessert to share. 860-514-7064.

We have received \$5230 in donations so far from the following towards this year's Holland Club Induction: Ellen McCance Ed Sherman; Reginald White; Bryan Ersek; Thomas Kelly; George Fetkin; Mark VanDerVoort; Gary Francis; Al Jagazewski; William Lary; Don Card; Charlie Duzy; Billy Whitehead. Steven Passen, Duane Russell, Zenas Gurley, Ira Goldman, Chris Boynton, Stephen Chickering, Jim Kenyon, Steven Barnes, Robert Austin, Jeremiah Ross, Gerald Cyril, John Olsson, William /Tronosky Jr, Rockie /DeLoach, Floyd Stahl, Harold Cushing Richard Eberle; David LeJune, Mitchell Schechtman, Billy Deshong, William Hare, Lorenzo French, and the Westport Satellite Group. Thank you one and all. These donations went a long way towards covering all the expenses involved in putting on a very meaningful ceremony and reception for our newest members of the Holland Club. Through your support, we can conduct this ceremony without having to rely on Base Funds. We can't do it without your support and there was no donation too small.

HOOYAH HOLLAND CLUB CLASS OF 2026.

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

Color Guard

The Color Guard presented all of our colors during the Groton Base's Memorial Day / U. S. S. Scorpion (SSN-589) memorial service. The color guard detail, consisting of Bob Sharpe, Joe Wread, Alex Doucette, Dennis Hopkins, and Marty Glavan carried the U. S. National, Connecticut State, U. S. Navy, U. S. Submarine Veterans and Submarine Veterans of World War II flags. Color guard members also assisted in the memorial program. Robert Dulin sounded the bell during the 'Tolling of the Boats' and Robert Sharpe read 'Lonely Piers' a poem by Richard Murphy IC 3 (SS) that describes the pier that no longer welcomes the U.S.S. Scorpion home.

We are registered for the Town of Groton's USA's 250th Anniversary 4th of July Parade. Groton base members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial – East committee and Naval Submarine School staff, students and Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team will provide the parade with a U. S. Submarine Service presentation.

U. S. Submarine Veterans and Submarine Veterans of World War II flags will be flown during the parade. If anyone would like to carry one of them for the 2-mile parade route, please let me know. If available, we'll have two SubSchool trainees to carry them for us.

We can always use more people to help me decorate the 'People Mover' trailer with posters and banners. Let me know if you can help out.

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

Thank you to everyone who attended the Kentucky Derby Potluck Dinner. It was a small crowd, but we had fun. Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share. Plenty of delicious food.

Next event is Saturday, June 20, 2026. Potluck social. Kick off to summer. Bring a dish and have some fun.

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 Conon's Corn Beef and Cabbage	83
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter Dinner Polish Night	45
02-May2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck	20

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026				
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme	
20-Jun-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck	
04-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	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.

On March 23, at the close of the business day, Groton Base had 1179 members. As of March 24, at the start of the business Groton Base had dropped to 1105. So, what does that mean to the Regular/Annual Members? It means you missed the renewal window and National dropped you. How will you know; you'll no longer receive a copy of the American Submariner or notices from USSVI. How to rectify; renew your membership ASAP.

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).

If you are a USSVI National Life Member: Groton Base dues are \$40

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 – 1,047
Life National Members – 858
Base Life Members - 404
Holland Club – 657
Associate Members – 61

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

It's continued to be busy with replying to seven new inquiries and mailing DMV applications and instructions to five of those; one who has joined USSVI and Groton base, two others looking to renew their membership, and one who has started the process of joining. I've received back two DMV applications with payment that I've processed and forwarded to the DMV.



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



The Groton Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. is pleased to recognize **Jacob Daniel Bookmiller of Niantic, Connecticut**, as the **2026 Groton Base USSVI Scholarship Awardee**. Jacob is the son of **Jason Bookmiller and Carin Bookmiller**, and his scholarship sponsor is his grandfather, **Eric Bookmiller, MMCS/SS**. A graduate of **East Lyme High School**, Jacob has been appointed to the **United States Merchant Marine Academy, Class of 2030**, where he plans to study **Marine Engineering**. His application reflects strong academic success, including rigorous coursework in engineering, CAD, physics, calculus, and AP courses, along with a reported SAT score of 1310. Beyond the classroom, Jacob has distinguished himself through athletics, Scouting, volunteer service, and hands-on technical work, including experience as a mechanical designer intern at Electric Boat General Dynamics in Groton.

Jacob's record also reflects the values of service, leadership, and commitment that are central to the Submarine Veterans Creed. His family has a long tradition of military service, including his father's service in the Merchant Marine Navy Reserve and his grandfather's 20 years serving on nuclear submarines. In his essay on what the Submarine Veterans Creed means to him, Jacob wrote that the Creed is "a statement about memory, responsibility, and purpose," adding that "remembering is a form of accountability" and that the United States and its Constitution connect "personal sacrifice to a larger set of ideals." The scholarship will be formally awarded **at the Club in Groton on June 1 at the Membership Meeting**, where Groton Base members will have the opportunity to congratulate Jacob and wish him success as he begins his next chapter at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

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 May is finally here. Remember this month usually gives us a good amount of rain. Be aware of local flooding and any flooding in your home. Also start preparing your home and vehicle into summer mode.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

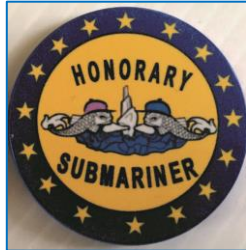
Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

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

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

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

KAP(SS) 4 KID (SS)



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

Abraham Lincoln

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

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

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



During our visits, the Kids all receive the now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base: Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps, temporary tattoos, challenge coins, and wristbands. Also handed out are signed Nautilus photos, maps showing the location of submarine museums around the U.S., and brochures specifically about the WWII Submarine Memorial and Submarine Force Museum in Groton.

The Kids continue to be excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls and K4K Teddy Bears!



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



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

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



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

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

Public Affairs Officer

Karaoke Night Success!

Karaoke is scheduled for May 8, 2026



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 June Birthday List

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

Last Name	First Name	DOB		Last Name	First Name	DOB
Ahlcrona	Stephen W.	03		Martini	Ronald L.	06
Ailinger	Charles K.	18		Matias	Johny	06
Albert	Scott G.	05		Maxfield	Jerome M.	19
Allread	William O.	14		McArthur	Ronald B.	26
Baughman	Thomas A.	13		McCarter	David	23
Bentley	Robert F.	11		Mercado	Jose	24
Bevill	James R.	01		Micheli	Michael	18
Borowicz	Stephen R.	09		Mireles	Lawrence M.	14
Brigham	Rodney L.	11		Moore	John F.	11
Brockwell	Anthony G.	19		Newton	Raymond Neff	23
Butler	Karle Leonard	28		Norman	Ralph D.	30
Campbell	Alexander S.T.	27		O'Bryant	Gaylon	10
Campisi	Joseph J.	29		Oefinger	Mark R.	19
Carroll	Cary L.	03		Olmstead	Steven	22
Collins	James B.	28		Orstad	Paul William	08
Davidson	Donald L.	05		Paulson	Martin J.	24
Dawson	William L.	20		Perez	Bianca	29
De Leon Sr.	Bernard	16		Phillips	Thomas E.	13
Dietrich	Jay W.	15		Pillsbury, Jr.	Harold R.	08
Dmochowski	Ross	10		Rogers	Leland C.	24
Doucette	Alex Walter	25		Russ	John K.	30
Duran	Luis Matilde	21		Russell	Duane W.	19
Engdall	William E.	19		Russell	Nathan J.	12
Fickel	Richard R.	13		Sablan	Kalab	18
Folmsbee	Todd W.	22		Sandoval	Michelle	20
Frease	David C.	19		Scent	Robert M.	29
Greenwood	William T.	11		Scott	Thomas E.	23
Harrison	Sidney M.	14		Sieben	David E.	09
Hewitt	G. Michael	22		Sirch	Ronald H.	20
Hirshkowitz	Martin R.	27		Smith	Bruce C.	23
Hodges	Hunter B.	22		Stalb	Alan L.	20
Hungerford	Stanley R.	14		Surratt	Gary L.	22
Hurt	Hugh Franklin	30		Taylor	Robert W.	13
Jenkins	Scott M.	10		Thomas	Samuel M.	07
Jolley	Andrew	23		Van Poots, PhD	Michael R.	18
Kappelman	Charles A.	03		Walsh	Zachary	17
Keefe	James D.	05		Ward Jr.	Benjamin P.	10
Kelley	Paul F.	10		Warn	Jon C.	01

Kersteter	Joel E.	24		Waterman	John P.	09
Kingston	Gary E.	17		Wilbanks	Peter	04
Langbein Jr.	William	25		Williams	Terrence W.	11
Lavoie	James	04		Williams	Alan G.	25
Lemke	Jack A.	01		Willis	Heather	27
Losole	Shawn A.	16		Woolrich	Raymond D.	13
Marmaud	Joseph L.	09				

USSVI Groton Base June Eternal Patrol List

Last Name	First Name	Date		Last Name	First Name	Date
Angelo, Jr.	Michael	06/29/2017		Malcolm	Emerson	06/18/2013
Belt	Michael	06/02/2010		Massey, III	Thomas	06/13/2021
Boswell	Raymond	06/09/2007		Mozeak	Abraham	06/11/2017
Bracknell	James	06/01/2015		Noone	Martin	06/04/2004
Brown	Sydney	06/10/2019		Norosky	John	06/21/2017
Burner	Cecil	06/01/2023		Padgett, Sr.	David	06/21/2015
Clark	Howard	06/14/2016		Patrick	Walter	06/08/2021
Connors	James	06/26/1998		Peterson	Dale	06/12/2014
Deane, Jr.	John	06/20/2015		Pfannenstiel	Richard	06/07/2014
Dennis	Ronald	06/22/2021		Plantz	Carolina	06/21/2023
Doe	William	06/08/2022		Robinson	Stanley	06/07/2007
Duba	Francis	06/06/2011		Russell	Edward	06/16/2025
Gaedt Sr.	Milton	06/21/2012		Smith	George	06/03/2005
Gruber, Jr.	Paul	06/02/2007		Temple	Stuart	06/23/2025
Gudz Jr.	Nicholas	06/10/2018		Turley	Brian	06/23/2022
Hahn	Albert	06/29/2023		Van Compennolle	Robert	06/04/2011
Hall	Gary	06/27/2022		Vander Brink	Richard	06/08/2023
Hanzel Sr.	Joseph	06/26/2013		Vesey	Vernon	06/28/2012
Hawes	Herbert	06/24/2015		Vormbrock	William	06/25/2014
Hawke	John	06/27/2015		Washington	Richard	06/26/2015
Kamuf	Donald	06/04/2006		Weitlauf	James	06/29/2020
Kosloskey	Charles	06/07/2009		Weske	Craig	06/12/2019
Krupenevic	Wallace	06/11/2007		White, Sr.	Marcus	06/06/2017
Lace	Edward	06/25/2009		Wilcox	Edward	06/07/2015
Lynwood	Beverly	06/27/2006		Zane	Ralph	06/19/2011
Majewski	Thomas	06/12/2020				



I have one consolation that lives with me today. That God is near to them in his own special way. So, God in all Your mercy keeps near Thyself the soul of every Submariner still on his final patrol.

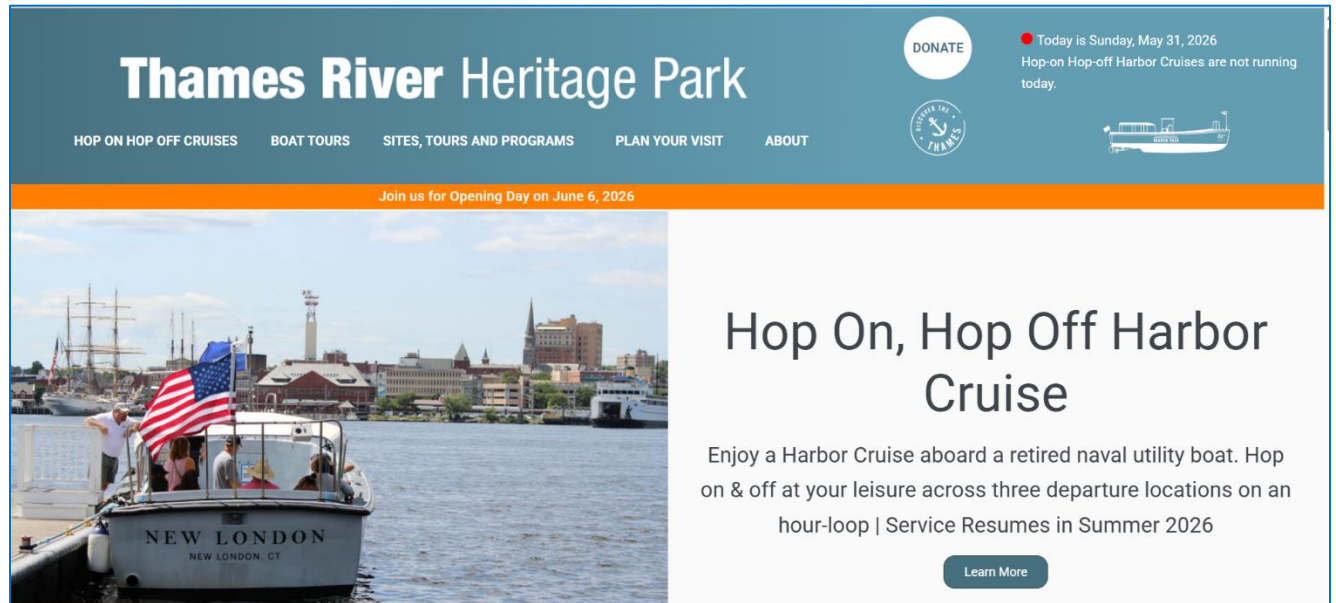
Lord this departed shipmate with Dolphins on his chest, is part of an outfit known as the best.

Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

So heavenly Father, add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

Local Items of Interest from around the area

Thames River Heritage Park



The screenshot shows the website for Thames River Heritage Park. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for "HOP ON HOP OFF CRUISES", "BOAT TOURS", "SITES, TOURS AND PROGRAMS", "PLAN YOUR VISIT", and "ABOUT". A "DONATE" button is also present. A notice states: "Today is Sunday, May 31, 2026 Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today." Below the navigation is an orange banner that says "Join us for Opening Day on June 6, 2026". The main content area features a large image of a boat named "NEW LONDON" on the water. To the right of the image is the heading "Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruise" and a paragraph: "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". A "Learn More" button is located at the bottom right of the text.

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

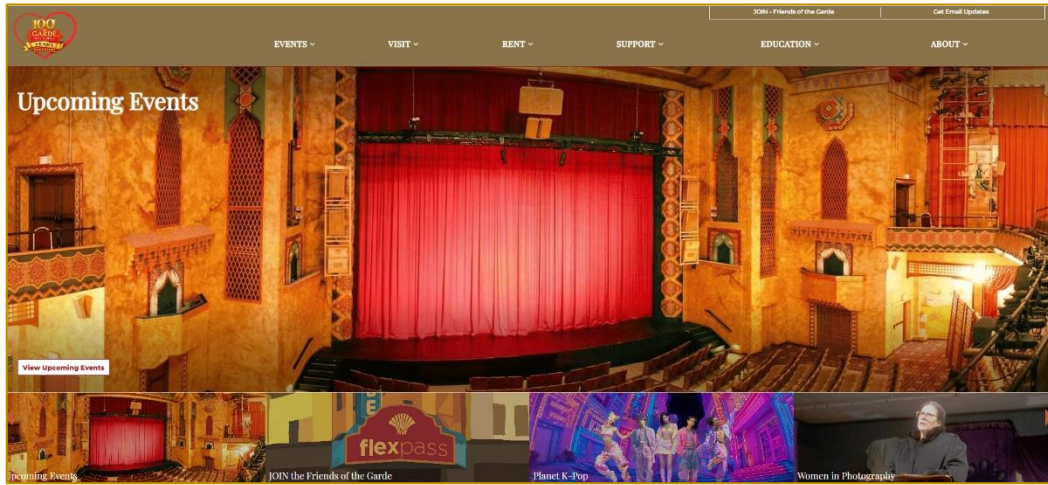
Custom House Maritime Museum/New London Maritime Society (NLMS)

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>



The screenshot shows the website for the Custom House Maritime Museum/New London Maritime Society (NLMS). The header features the NLMS logo, the text "CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM", and a navigation menu with links for "About", "NL Harborcam", "Calendar", "Rental", "Lighthouses", "Library", "News", "Amistad", and "Education". Below the header is a large image of a crowd of people, including children, gathered at a harbor. A text box overlaid on the image reads: "Happy 250th! 3rd grade students in our Local-History & Landmarks program in the NL Public Schools sang sea chanteys, with musician Geoff Kaufman and NLMS educator Jody Barthel, as the USCG Eagle departed home port New London, May 1, 2026".

Garde Arts Center



<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 SHIP'S 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 BREAUTL
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



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.