



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



BOAT

NOTES



For those who served beneath the waves

GROTON BASE
Groton, Connecticut

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026

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Groton Base Officers

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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:

USSVI Groton Base

40 School St.

Groton, CT 06340



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



United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Greetings from the beaches of Oak Island, NC the vacation site of USSVI Groton Base (Commander), (and temporary) home of the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial "First and Finest" Clubhouse. As we escape Groton during the longest month of winter (March) we look forward (wish I could be there, not!) to many great things happening during the month. These event happen because of the hard work, dedication, and monetary donations by you, our membership, in the upkeep and improvements to 40 School Street, is nothing short of outstanding. The Groton Base EBoard and National Officers thank you.

It is with great sadness that I mention the loss of our last, Groton Base, WWII Submariner BM3 (SS) William "Bill" Scarano went on Eternal Patrol on March 20th. I spoke with Bill on his 101st birthday on his incredible life. For me it was an honor to have called him Shipmate. Rest Your Oars Bill, thank you for the legacy you leave behind.

We are an organization that prides itself on being true to the creed, "Perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates" and provide 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.

USS Charlotte Sinks IRIS Dena: What has been confirmed?

On March 4, 2026, USS *Charlotte* made history. The Los Angeles-class attack submarine, commissioned in 1994 and homeported in Pearl Harbor, sank the Iranian Navy frigate IRIS *Dena* using a Mark 48 ADCAP torpedo in the Indian Ocean. It was the first time since 1945 that a United States Navy submarine had sunk an enemy combatant ship, following more recent sinkings by HMS *Conqueror* (1982) and North Korean midget submarine sinking South Korean naval vessel *Cheonan* (2010).



The Pentagon confirmed the strike at a briefing where Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine stood alongside Secretary of Defense Pete



Hegseth. Caine confirmed the ship was destroyed by a Mark 48 torpedo fired from a U.S. Navy fast-attack submarine, with video footage taken from the submarine showing the frigate's hull destroyed in the blast. Hegseth kept his summary short. "An American submarine sunk an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters. Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo. Quiet death."

Dena had recently participated in the International Fleet Review 2026 hosted by India and was returning home when she was struck in international waters approximately nineteen nautical miles off the coast of Galle, Sri Lanka. Pentagon footage released to the public showed the torpedo striking beneath *Dena's* stern, raising the vessel before she went under fast. Sri Lanka dispatched ships and aircraft on a rescue mission, recovering thirty-two survivors and eighty-seven bodies.

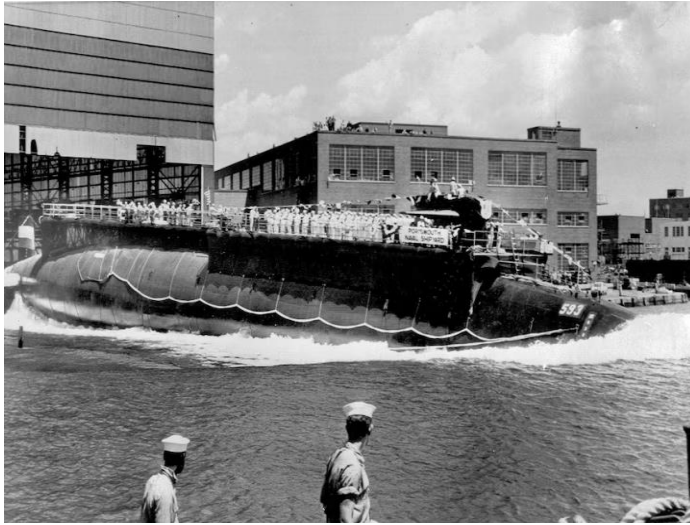
One point worth addressing directly: early reporting, repeated the claim that two torpedoes were fired and one missed. That detail traces to anonymous officials speaking to news organizations and was not part of the on-record Pentagon briefing. What General Caine confirmed at the podium was a Mark 48 ADCAP torpedo. We are sticking with what was said on the record and leaving the speculation to others.



The last time a U.S. Navy submarine sank an enemy combatant was August 14, 1945, when USS *Torsk* torpedoed a Japanese frigate. Eighty-one years between torpedo kills. *Charlotte* ended that streak. Fair winds and following seas to her crew.

Thresher Remembrance

April is a hard month in submarine history. The hardest date in it is the tenth.



On April 10, 1963, USS Thresher sank during deep-diving tests approximately 220 miles east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, killing all 129 crew and shipyard personnel aboard. She was the lead boat of her class, the fastest and quietest submarine of her day, and she was on a post-shipyard sea trial that the crew had every reason to expect would go smoothly. She had completed all her acceptance trials, shakedown availability, and fleet exercises. She was not, as a common misperception holds, on her first deep dive. Crew member Arthur L. Rehme, the ship's former medical officer, shared that he felt confident in the crew, and that the

first time they reached a record depth the ship cheered. The loss was not anticipated, it was an immense shock to the nation.

During the Court of Inquiry called immediately, Hyman G. Rickover insisted on being interviewed by the Court, and rather than defending the nuclear program, he displayed his shrewd ability to identify problems, offering what became a now-famous statement: "I believe the loss of the Thresher should not be viewed solely as the result of failure of a specific braze, weld, system or component, but rather should be considered a consequence of the philosophy of design, construction and inspection, that has been permitted in our naval shipbuilding programs." According to his biographer Francis Duncan, Rickover thought his testimony could be an opportunity to show how the technical standards he had insisted upon should be applied to other work. He came to the Court of Inquiry not to mourn, but to build.

What they built was SUBSAFE. It became such a successful quality assurance program that other organizations looked to it for inspiration on their own programs. In the aftermath of the Challenger disaster, NASA was recommended to look to two Navy submarine programs that had strived for accident-free performance, specifically the Submarine Flooding Prevention and Recovery program and Naval Nuclear Propulsion. The reach of what 129 men's deaths made possible is difficult to overstate.

Two separate cultures existed within the submarine fleet: diesel and nuclear. The Thresher tragedy on April 10, 1963, hastened the end of that binary approach and eventually led to the single bedrock foundation that submarine culture now rests on. This does not take away from the notable culture of diesel submarine culture that proudly states DBF, but the safety record held for more than sixty years, speaks for itself.

Every submariner today who checks a fitting, verifies a weld, or runs a drill on the emergency blow is working within a system that 129 men paid for with their lives. SUBSAFE is not bureaucratic overhead. It is a memorial written in procedure and certification.

April 11: National Submarine Day

April 11 is National Submarine Day, and the reason is straightforward. On April 11, 1900, the United States government purchased Holland VI from John Philip Holland's company for the sum of \$150,000, formally acquiring what would become the Navy's first modern submarine. She had been in the water for three years by then, undergoing trials and modifications that convinced a skeptical Navy that she was worth the investment. The government soon ordered more submarines from Holland's company, which became the Plunger class and America's first fleet of underwater naval vessels.



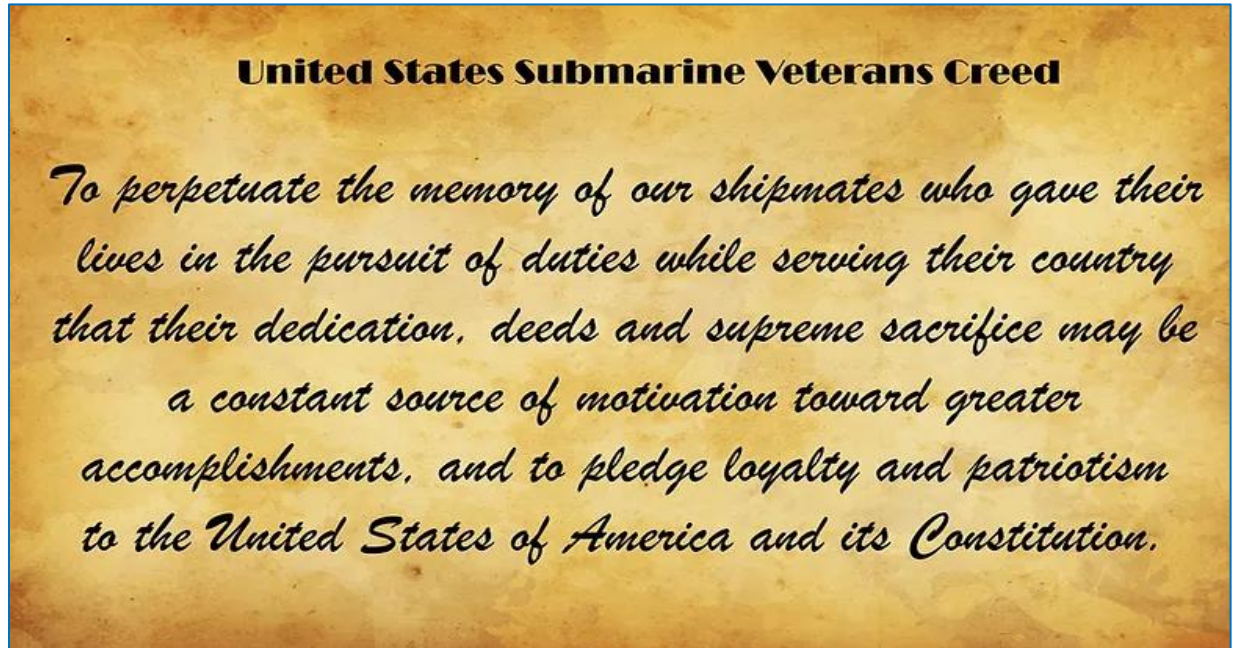
April Nautilus Milestones



Nautilus has two milestones: she went underway for the West Coast under Commander William R. Anderson, beginning the sequence of events that would lead to Operation Sunshine and the first submerged transit of the North Pole on August 3, 1958. The April departure is less well known than the August arrival, but just as important. April is also when the active service of the Nautilus ended: April 11, 1986, USS Nautilus opened to the public as part of the Submarine Force Library and Museum right there in Groton.

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 – April

	USS Pickerel (SS-177)	Lost on April 3, 1943, with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.
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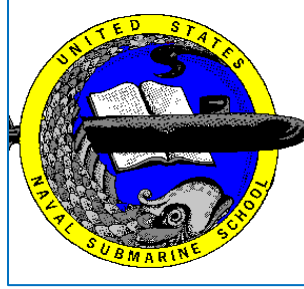
	<p>USS Snook (SS-279)</p>	<p>Lost on April 8, 1945, with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.</p>
	<p>USS Thresher (SSN-593)</p>	<p>Lost on April 10, 1963, with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands-on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.</p>
	<p>USS Gudgeon (SS-211)</p>	<p>USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944, with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944, in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface anti-submarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol</p>

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	<p>USS Grenadier (SS-210)</p>	<p>Lost on April 22, 1943, near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.</p>
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Plan of the Month – April 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
4/6	1830	Event	Groton Base Membership Meeting
4/3	1100	Event	SOBC Graduation
4/3	2000	Event	Karaoke With DJ Jammin' Jim
4/10	0900	Event	BESS Graduation
4/11	1800	Event	Submarine Birthday Ball – Fox Tower
4/12	1000	Event	Sunday Brunch with Dawn
4/17	1100	Event	BESS Graduation
4/18	1800	Event	Monthly Dinner – Polish Night
4/19	1000	Event	Sunday Brunch with Dawn
4/21	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
4/26	1000	Event	Sunday Brunch with Dawn



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 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 February 27 and March 13th.

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, as well as class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 26120, named after the USS Balao SS 285. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



USS Balao SS/AGSS-285 was the lead ship of the United States Navy's Balao-class submarines during World War II and named for the balao, a small schooling marine fish.

Balao's keel was laid down on 26 June 1942 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 27 October 1942, sponsored by Mrs. Jane Aylward, wife of Lieutenant Commander Theodore C. Aylward, commissioned on 4 February 1943 and reported to the United States Pacific Fleet.

Deployed to the Pacific, she was based out of Brisbane, Australia, and Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, where she patrolled for enemy ships and rescued downed aviators. Following an overhaul in California in December 1944, Balao returned to the Pacific and served until Japan's surrender. Decommissioned in August 1946, she became part of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. Recommissioned in March 1952, Balao became as a training ship for antisubmarine and Special Deployment Forces at both Key West, Florida, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In 1959, she starred as the "pink submarine" in the motion picture "Operation Petticoat". In April 1960, she was reclassified as AGSS-285. A year later, Balao simulated a disabled submarine while testing a new device for individual escape, the "Steinke Hood." During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October and November 1962, she was sent to patrol the western Atlantic. Decommissioned on July 11, 1963, her hulk was sunk off northern

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Florida on September 6. Beforehand, Balao's fairwater was removed and sent to the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., where it can still be seen on display.

More on the Balao can be found https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Balao and <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/ships-us/ships-usn-b/uss-balao-ss-285.html>.

On February 27th, the BESS Class named after USS Balao SS-285 had 121 students with a class average was 78% and 7 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: ETVC(SS) Capistran, FT1(SS) Abbott, FT2(SS) Davis, and STS2(SS) Crater. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer, CDR Brian Chapman. Guest Speaker was SubSchool Master Chief, Sean DeGraff. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member, STCS(SS) Robert Sharpe USN Ret. was the Sub Vet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Evan D. Smith. 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 ETVC(SS) Capistran to SR(SU) Malcolm Dyso. 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 SR(SU) Marcus Lopez, by Sub School XO, CDR Chapman. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.



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The Navy Core Values Award was presented by TMCM(SS) Sean DeGraff to SA(SU) Devonte Jenkins. 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.



The following information is for BESS Class 26140, named after the USS *Pickrel* SS 524. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS *Pickrel* (SS-524), a Tench-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for a young or small pike. The contract to build *Pickrel* was awarded to the Boston Navy Yard in Boston, Massachusetts, and her keel was laid down on 8 February 1944. She was launched without a christening ceremony on 15 December 1944. After being towed to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, for completion, she was simultaneously christened and commissioned on 4 April 1949, sponsored by Mrs. John R. Moore, and commanded by Lieutenant Commander Paul R. Schratz.



After sea trials, *Pickrel* departed New London, Conn. 10 August, and headed for Hawaii via East and Gulf coast ports, and the Panama Canal and arrived Pearl Harbor 28 September where she joined SubDiv 11.

From 16 March to 5 April 1950, *Pickrel* completed a 5,200 mile voyage from Hong Kong to Pearl Harbor in 21 days while completely submerged, probably the longest distance ever traveled by a submerged diesel-electric submarine. During her first deployment in the Western Pacific in 1950, *Pickrel* spent 4 months in the Korean War Zone, one of the first submarines to enter the Korean Conflict.

Returning to Pearl Harbor in the spring of 1951, *Pickrel* operated in the Hawaiian area undergoing tests of maximum capabilities, and conducting intensive training until she returned to the Far East in July 1953.

Upon returning to Hawaii early in 1954, *Pickrel* resumed services for our aircraft and surface anti-submarine forces there and, but for overhaul, continued this important duty until returning to the Western Pacific in June 1955.

Pickrel operated out of Pearl Harbor during 1964 until 28 December, when she departed enroute Yokosuka to begin a WestPac tour as a unit of the 7th Fleet. In the years that followed, she continued this pattern of alternating services in Hawaii with deployments in the Far East. In the fall of 1966 her duties in WestPac were broadened to include operations in the Vietnam combat zone on Yankee Station.

After a year in Hawaiian waters, *Pickrel* headed west once more on 16 January 1968. She visited various ports of the Orient before returning to Yankee Station 8 May. Following service in the Combat Zone, she

reached Pearl Harbor via Japan 8 July. Her home port was changed to San Diego 1 August and she headed for the West Coast 22 August. Well into 1970s the Pickerel continued in Pacific operations providing a vital service to the U.S. Navy.

More on the Pickerel can be found https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Pickerel_%28SS-524%29 and <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/p/pickerel-ii.html>.

On March 13th the BESS Class named after USS Pickerel SS-524 had 119 students with a class average was 77% and 1 Sailor 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: ETVC(SS) Alejandra Capistran, FT1(SS) Murray, FT1(SS) Abbott, and STS2(SS) Houck. 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 Squadron 4 CMDCM, Adam Goulas. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



Holland Club Chairman and USSVI Groton Base Member Master Chief John Carcioppolo, USN Retired, was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Giana Pepitone. 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 ETVC(SS) Capistran to SR(SU) Zander Vales. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.



The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SN(SU) Benjamin Curtis, 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.

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The Navy Core Values Award was presented by CMDCM Adam Goulas to MM3(SU) PJ Amble. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

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



BESS Graduation Schedule

Here is the current graduation schedule for BESS. We are waiting for the 2026 BESS and SOBC 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
26180	USS Hawaii SSN-776	<i>10 April 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
26200	USS Idaho SSN-799	<i>24 April 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
26220	USS Wahoo SS-238	<i>08 May 2026</i>			
26240	USS Barb SS-220	<i>22 May 2026</i>		Atkins	
26260	USS Holland SS-1	<i>05 June 2026</i>		Atkin/Ricard	
		<i>19 June 2026</i>			
		<i>02 July 2026</i>			
		<i>17 July 2026</i>		Bud Atkin	
		<i>31 July 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>14 August 2026</i>			
		<i>28 August 2026</i>			
		<i>11 September 2026</i>			
		<i>25 September 2026</i>			
	USS Archerfish	<i>09 October 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>23 October 2026</i>		Bud Atkin	
		<i>06 November 2026</i>			
		<i>18 November 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>04 December 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>18 December 2026</i>			

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26030	22 May 2026		
26040	24 July 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	18 September 2026		
26060	13 November 2026		

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26010	01 May 2026		
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?

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 Wednesday-Friday 1100-1700 (or when the last customer leaves) with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday. Come in and say Hi to Dawn. Thanks to Heather, Meca, Hodge, and Julz for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.

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

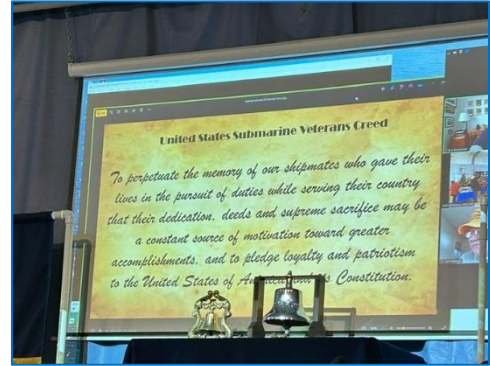
Stop in and renew some old friendships. We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026

On Monday, March 2nd we held our Monthly Membership meeting at 1830 in the hall. Over 40 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 1200 members can attend.**



Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.



On Sunday's when we do not have a crew to serve up brunch we will have "Brunch with Dawn" and (maybe) Tina. We're trying to have a brunch every Sunday whether it's a brunch crew or with Dawn. It's a great time, come on down, support the club, and eat a good home (club) cooked breakfast.

On Sunday March 15th we honored to have "Old Salts" take over the kitchen for a great Sunday Brunch. It's never a dull moment or a menu disappointment when these guys are cooking.



On Tuesday March 17th we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon down in the "Richard Higham" Hall. There were over 60 members and guests who braved the 10-degree temperatures to attend the luncheon. Our guest speaker was Commander, Submarine Squadron Four Capt. Thomas Flaherty, and CMC Adam Goulas.

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

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026



On Saturday 28 March, the newest Virginia Class Submarine, the USS Massachusetts SSN 798 was commissioned in Boston Harbor with the oldest commissioned ship, the USS Constitution standing off the port side. The following is an excerpt from our man on the scene, Bill Cavanagh.

It was sunny and cool in Boston Harbor on Saturday, March 28th for the commissioning of the USS Massachusetts (SSN 798), the first visit of a nuclear submarine to Boston in over 30 years.

There was a large turnout to witness the eighth ship to bear the name Massachusetts, the first being a two masted “revenue cutter” in 1790.

Families of the crew, Sea Cadets, dignitaries and a smattering of Submarine Vets were present to celebrate the history of the Commonwealth and its role in US Maritime history from the days before the nation was founded.

During the ceremony, the USS Constitution sailed nearby, or more correctly was under tow alongside, as a fitting honor.

Not having been to a commissioning before, I was thrilled to watch, and a bit jealous, of the

crew as they streamed onto the ship when given the order to “...man your ship.”

There is a full recording, as well as shorter clips of the ceremony on YouTube that I recommend.



On Saturday 21 March the Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee host the monthly dinner. Chef Jeff and his mess cooks whipped up a delicious St. Patrick’s Day dinner. The “Tom and Carol Connors” corned beef and cabbage dinner was attended by over 80 members and their guest. Raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing with proceeds going to the next monthly dinner. Thanks to all who attended and to those who brought along a special dessert. Join us in April for another great dinner and camaraderie. **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

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026

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

We are looking for someone to step forward and take over the Senior Vice Commander position. If interested, please let the EBoard know.

Junior Vice Commander

Hello Shipmates,

We are implementing reduced hours for the Winter at the club, as we have reduced usage.

Summer Clubhouse Hours (As of March 31, 2026)

Closed Tuesday

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 19:00

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

Kitchen Lunch hours are implemented as of September 2

Stop by and check out the vittles and say hello to Dawn Andrelli

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

Happy Hour

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

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

ELECTION 2026

This year two positions are up for election:

BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER and BASE SECRETARY

These positions are vital to the overall operation of Groton Base

Nominations opened at the 02 February Membership Meeting

Nominations will be closed on 15 April 2026

Balloting will take place following the closing of Nominations

BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER

- Shall be responsible for membership roles in the manner prescribed by the Executive Board to show always, the names of the members of this organization, alphabetically arranged, their respective places of residence, their post office address, and the year when each person became a member.
- Shall be responsible for the promulgation of all pertinent information to the officers of the base.
- Shall be the Chairman of the Base Finance Committee.
- During the absences and/or inability of Base Commander to render and perform his duties, or exercise powers, as set forth in these bylaws, or in the laws under which the corporation is organized, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Sr. Vice Commander. And when so acting, they shall have all the powers given to, or imposed upon, the Base Commander.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and council for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

BASE SECRETARY

- Shall keep a record of the meetings of the general membership and of the Executive Board.
- Shall be the custodian of the records and of the seal and affix the latter when required.
- Shall be responsible for the contents, publication, and distribution of the newsletter.
- Shall maintain, change and or modify events in the Base Calendar as needed or requested.
- Shall present to the Executive Board at their stated meetings, all communications addressed to Secretary officially by the Base Commander or any other officer or member of the base.
- Shall attend to all correspondence and perform all duties incident to their office.
- The Secretary shall draft calls of meetings, conduct the election of the base officers and be responsible for the giving of notice thereof as required by these bylaws.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

NOMINATION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Election Master or chairman of the Base Nominating Committee, as assigned, shall conduct the nominations for the (5) elected officers.
- The Election Master or Chairman of the Groton Base Nominating Committee shall issue a call for nominations of eligible candidates for Groton Base Officers to all Members in good standing no later than the date of the February membership business meeting.
- Nominations will remain open until April 15th.
- Nominations, when called for, may be made from the floor at the meeting(s) and shall be accepted upon the oral or written consent of the nominee that they accept the nominations and will serve if elected.
- Nominations may be submitted by any Member of Groton Base in good standing.
- Nominations submitted to the Election Master or chairman of the Nominating Committee, if not submitted by the nominee, must be accompanied by a written consent of the nominee that they will accept the nominations and will serve if elected. The qualifications of the nominee, not to exceed 100 words, may accompany nominations.
- Upon close of nominations the Election Master or Nominating Committee shall make wide distribution of the names and qualifications, in alphabetical order, of all candidates properly nominated using both print and electronic means as viable.

ELECTION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Base Secretary shall conduct the election for the (5) elected officers except in an even year, when the election of Secretary is held.
- In the even years, an Officer not up for election or the Election Master will conduct the election providing all required documents to the Secretary upon conclusion of the election.
- Every bona fide candidate for Groton Base office, or their authorized delegate, may address the membership at a regular meeting for not more than five (5) minutes.
- After the close of nominations, should the Slate of Officers in nomination include only one name for each Office a voice vote, in lieu of a secret ballot vote may be entertained and conducted at the May membership business meeting.
- Electronic voting via internet is the standard method used for Elections, with mail-in paper ballots sent to the Base Secretary for inclusion in the electronic tally for those without internet access.
- If electronic voting via internet is not available, the voting shall be by paper ballot.
- Electronic and paper ballot voting, if utilized, Cut-off shall be no later than at 2359 hours on the last Monday of May.
- Ballots, ballot forms, and envelopes as hereafter prescribed shall be mailed by the Base Secretary not later than May 1st to each Groton Base Member in good standing and who the Secretary does not have a validate email address then to their last known US Mail address. The names, in alphabetical order, of all qualified candidates shall be printed or typed on the ballot with one (1) additional space for write-in vote, opposite of which shall be a box to be filled in by the member voting to signify the candidates of their choice. Such ballot shall also set forth in electronic media, printed or typed form such instructions as the Base Secretary considers necessary to insure the secrecy of the ballot and its execution and mailing, or personal delivery at the meeting within the prescribed period. The instructions shall also include directions that there may be no voting by proxy.
- Election results, if not voice voted, will be announced by the Secretary at the June monthly business meeting.

David Frease
Base Secretary secretary@ussvigroton.org

Base Treasurer

NEW IDEAS FOR APRIL

- Baby Diaper drive for our submarine community families & provide diapers by Mother's Day
- Weekly giveaways at lunchtime

ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

The Appeal Letters are out and you should have received yours, please consider a donation to support our efforts to maintain the building, keep it open and a place for the submarine community.

Here a few comments we just received:

- Thank you! For all you do for all of us at USSVI.
- Great Job Brothers
- In memory of Kenneth L. Small ETCM(SS)
- In memory of my late husband HMCM(SS) Charley Williams was a life member.
- See you in April. (Idaho Commissioning)
- Donorship well worth spent
- Outstanding work. God Bless
- I would love to attend more events – parking/walking is the barrier *(note on this, we continue to find ways to get it easier to get into the club, if you have this problem and want to attend an event or a meeting, please call because we will try to help out if we can... the clubhouse is for all of us)*
- We added a short comment in the appeal letter **“In recognition of our 62nd anniversary, we invite you to consider a gift of \$62, \$620, or another amount that is meaningful to you”** really didn't expect to get this response but we are getting donations in the amount of \$62 or combinations of using 62 and other donations in the amount of the donors hull number, for me that's 347 or \$347.
 - Every contribution, no matter the size is appreciated, THANK YOU !!

We appreciate all your comments, both positive and negative. I appreciate all the local members who volunteer their time, our local volunteers, and donors because without you all we can't make this happy, so another THANK YOU!

COINS:

Another collector's item probably could be..... but give one to a buddy and watch for the reaction, it's worth a million.

The cost remains \$10 again this year...

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026



FINANCIALS:

Check our website for current financial statements.

New options to make donations to Sub Vets Groton:

We have been asked over the last couple of years for options other than cash, credit card, checks, or PayPal.

Zelle – if you can use Zelle you can send in donations

Note: always let us know how you want us to use your donation

Zelle our tag is - subvetsgroton

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.

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.

- UPDATE: 2 Members have discussed adding SubVets Groton as a beneficiary

Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

- 1st level ladies' room
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026

- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors
- 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

Note: if you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know

DONATIONS:

DONATIONS ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BUT CRITICAL. Our National and local bases need donations to keep activities available to our submarine communities. For Groton it's keeping the doors open but just one visit and you can see the difference individual donations have made in maintaining the building and improving services to all of us!

YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

There are a few ways you can donate.

Option 1: You can mail a check to SUBVETS GROTON 40 School St Groton CT 06340

Option 2: You can donate Via PayPal at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/donations>.

You can donate to our Annual or Thanksgiving Appeals, to our Scholarship, Holland Club, Memorial Fund, Capital Improvements and Kaps4Kids.

Note: Contributions to SUBVETS GROTON are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Option 3: You can mail a check to USSV Charitable Foundation PO Box 1063 Groton CT 06340-1063. Please indicate that your donation is for Groton Building or Groton Thanksgiving.

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

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

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

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

1. Option to get donations applied and available for Groton.
 - a. Indicate that the donation is for Groton Building 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. 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.

Base Chaplin

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



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

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

RM3(SS) Michael M. Dunn Departed pm Eternal Patrol on 6 December 2025. No honors Detail was held.

BM3(SS) William “Bill” Scarano Departed pm Eternal Patrol on 20 March 2026. The Honors detail presented Honors on 27 March. Present were Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Doucette, Bob Dulin; Bob Sharpe, Bob Gustafson, Obie Hill, Al Kinsall, Jason Rusk, and Joe Wread,

EM1(SS) Charles S. Wilkinson Jr. Departed on Eternal Patrol on 22 March 2026. Honors Detail presented Honors on 27 March. Robert Sharpe Coordinated the Honors Detail. Others present were Earl Colella, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin and Joe Wread.

Many thanks to the members of the Honors Detail for your support, especially those who did double duty at both Honors Details.

HMCS(SS) James Moseley Departed on Eternal Patrol 1 April 2026. The Honors Detail will present Honors on 11 April at 11:00 am at Byles Funeral Home 99 Huntington Street New London

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

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

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

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

RED HAT CEREMONIES On Thursday 19 March a number of hearty members Groton Base braved some really cold windy weather to welcome home the USS TEXAS (SSN 775) home to SUBASE after several months of deployment at the Pointy End of the Spear. 7 volleys on the Saluting Cannons and a

return whistle from TEX and they were on the way upriver to continue their return to families and friends waiting at SUBASE. WELCOME HOME Shipmates. BZ and THANK YOU.

The following Shipmates and Spouses participated in the Red Hat Ceremony welcoming home USS TEXAS: Jim “Bo” Bowman, Bob Dulin; Bob Sharpe; Brian Hague; Alex Doucette; Harold Haugland; Derek Watkins; Joe Wread; Dee Carcioppolo; Rich Cheatam; Angie & Jim Lawton; Shirley Patenaude, Kim Beagle, Joe Wread; Jim Lubs; Marty Hirshkowitz; Gary Sarratt; Dick Warnock; Fran & Al Kinsall; Dennis Hopkins; Philip Medberry; Bob & Marilyn Gustafson.



Great Crowd of Red Hats



Welcome Home USS TEXAS (SSN 775)

Additional pictures are posted here
<https://linkit.shutterfly.com/QCbyTv>

Please feel free to share and repost as desired.

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.

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.

April 2026 Holland Club Report

Welcome to Spring, Good Riddance that this past winter is in the rear-view mirror.

Groton Base Boat Notes – April 2026

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon in March. We had GREAT SUPPORT from the following students from Naval Submarine School serving the meal: FT LUCAS Boyle Kilgore TX; TM Enoch Yule; Garrison TX; Wesley Cox Payton OH; STS Joseph Owen MX; FT Daniel Moza Norfolk VA; MMA Gian F. Tomasto NY.

The Guest Speaker was Captain Craig Litty, CO SUBBASE New London. He was accompanied by his CMC(SS) Gary Stephenson. Captain Litty gave a high energy, motivational talk about his career and his perspective of being the CO of the First and Finest Submarine Base.

Many thanks to all who supported and attended this luncheon. The 50/50 was \$115 and was won by Betty Kelley who donated \$25 back to the Holland Club.



SUBSCHOOL Volunteers



Captain Craig Litty, SUBSCHOOL Volunteers & CMC(SS) Gary Stephenson



**Captain Craig Litty
CO, SUBBASE New London**



Captain Litty & CMC Stephenson

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

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **21 April Guest Speaker** OIC Historic Ship Nautilus LCDR Lucas
- **19 May Guest Speaker** Groton Sail Foundation

HOLLAND CLUB 2026 We are closing in on this year's Holland Club Ceremony. The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly.

At present we have 48 inductees for this year's ceremony. 13 will not be attending and 35 Inductees will be on the stage. We recently added several additional inductees to the list, Robert Austin, Rockie (Jeb) DeLoach, Billy DeShong, Paul m. Johnson, William Keel, Rodney B. Schlosser, Floyd D. Stahl. We will not be anyone else added to this year's list. Anyone who joins after this point will go in the Holland Club in 2027.

The second letter hit the mail on 16 March. These provide instructions, other events, and for you to provide your guest lists. These need to be back to me NLT 15 April. It is very important that for you and your guests who do not have normal Base Access that you include full name, SSN, Date of Birth, and citizenship so that all can be vetted by SUBASE Security for Base access.

There will be a reception for the Inductees on Friday 5 June at the golf course. Present Holland /Club members are also invited to attend. If you plan on attending, please contact me. For those without normal Base Access, I will require full name, SSN, Date of Birth and Citizenship. Al Kinsall is coordinating volunteers to help with the ceremony and I will require the same information.

The ceremony is open to all members of Groton Base and your guests to attend. If you have normal access to SUBASE no problem. If you do not have normal access to the Base you will need to provide the same information listed above and can ride the bus to get on base.

The following is the meeting schedule for the Induction Ceremony planning meetings:

Thu 30 Apr 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse

THU 28 May 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse

We have received \$4405 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 Van DerVoort; Gary Francis; Al Jagzewski; 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 Cyrul, John Olsson, William /Tronosky Jr, Rockie /DeLoach, Floyd Stahl, Harold Cushing Richard Eberle; David LeJune and Mitchell Schechtman

. Thank you one and all. These donations go 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. We can't do it without your support and there is no donation too small.

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

Color Guard

During the month of March, the color guard presented our National Stars and Stripes along with the USSVI flag during our U. S. S. Texas SSN-775 home coming salute. We thanked her crew for a job well done and for bringing her home safely from deployment.

The Color Guard next scheduled muster will be in April 2026 for the Groton Base's USS Thresher (SSN-593) memorial service. The color guard detail will consist of flag carriers for the U. S. National, U. S. Navy, USSVI flags and two flag escorts,

We are now 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.

I am looking for people to help me decorate the 'People Mover' trailer with posters and banners. Let me know if you can help.

As part of our reunion event plans, for hosting your reunion with the Joe Negri Clubhouse, our color guard can also present the National Colors at your banquet. Email Ashley at events@ussvigroton.org for more information.

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

Congratulations to Jeff Walsh and his crew on a tasty Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner. Many thanks to the volunteers who help pull the dinner together, including volunteers from Sub School.

Many thanks to Jules who provided not 1, not 2, but 3 raffle baskets, And Rob Davis.

Polish night April 18, 2026, at 6:00 pm. \$20 per person. The signup sheet is at the bar.

Menu:

Ham
Kielbasa
Lazy Pierogi
Red Cabbage
Rye Bread

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

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026				
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme	
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter dinner Polish night	
02-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck	
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 standings 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

commander@ussvigroton.org. 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 – 1,105
 Life National Members – 865
 Base Life Members - 404
 Holland Club – 668
 Associate Members – 64

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

USSVI Groton Base DMV Liaison

The pace has picked up quite a bit since last month's report, and we've received eight new inquiries and gained three new USSVI/Groton base members (with a fourth who is active duty and in the process of joining). I've mailed DMV applications with instructions to five of the new inquiries and received back one that I'm presently processing to send on to the DMV. We've also received an email from one member to say they were very happy with the new plates (shown below):



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

Groton Base USSVI Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2026 SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2026.

Please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair, at 860-989-1426 or via email at Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu.

Memorial Committee



Waiting for warmer weather to get the grounds ready for seasonal planting. Stay tuned for updates.

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

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, looks like April 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.

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/>

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 are 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 April 3, 2026



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>.

USSVI Groton Base April Birthday List

Happy Birthday To All Who Continue To Celebrate for the Month of April

Last Name	First Name	Date		Last Name	First Name	Date
Benson	Clinton R.	23		Laney	Bruce E.	16
Boorman	Richard J.	14		Larson	David L.	22
Burwell	James	05		Leavitt	James A.	05
Butters, Jr.	Alvin L.	21		Ledbetter	Jesse L.	20
Callicutt	Homer Darrell	13		Lobach	Bruce E.	23
Cornell Sr.	David T.	20		Maresca	Charles A.	09
Davila	Juan	09		McDonald	Kaylee M.	06
Delgado	Douglas R.	25		McGovern	Patrick J.	18
Dietz	Wesley A.	19		McMullin	Charles F.	05
Dobush	Nicholas P.	23		Mugavero	James	13
Driscoll	Joseph P.	14		Norris	Glen R.	12
Earls	Kenneth L.	12		Osborne	Brian R.	17
Eastham	Michael O.	14		Osswald, III	Albert Andres	20
Falk	Jeffrey M.	04		Padgett Jr.	David H.	26
Friedman	Peter D.	17		Pattee	Christopher	09
Fulton	Ronald K.	20		Priebe	Edward A.	05
Gantz	William J.	24		Purtell	Roy Robert	16
Gibson	Leo E.	05		Ratzky	Howard	24
Glaub	John E.	08		Ricard	Steven A.	29
Glavan	Martin William	09		Robinson	John David	05
Glendening	Leonard M.	14		Saunders	Ronald N.	20
Grace	Todd M.	28		Scroggins	Michael K.	06
Haugland	Harold C.F.	19		Shaw	Edward J.	28
Hawks	William	25		Shishmanian	William C.	11
Hayes	Jason S.	15		Smee	Charles R.	10
Hill	Obediah P.	24		Steady	Patrick	09
Holmes	Arnold D.	19		Stoller	William R.	15
Hurley	Michael	25		Summers	Jimmy Kirk	25
Jackson	Stephen Leal	03		Thompson	Stephen W.	22
Kammerer	John E.	17		Tippett	John	25
Kane	Gregory C.	09		Watkins	Derek F.	25
Kenyon	James	23		Whitescarver	Paul A.	18

Klein	Michael Nicholas	12		Wiggins	Mark A.	07
Kramer	Daniel	26		Youel	Steven S.	13
Kressley	John W.	25		Yuill	John C.	23

USSVI Groton Base April Eternal Patrol List

Last Name	First Name	Date		Last Name	First Name	Date
Ames, Sr.	Charles	04/25/2019		Lyon	Basil	04/04/2006
Booth	Robert	04/06/2009		MacKenzie	John	04/14/2017
Broadbent	William	04/11/2017		Mann	Darrell	04/16/2022
Brown	Jeweldeen	04/14/2019		McCain	Harold	04/05/2018
Bruce	James	4/14/2023		McCannes	Richard	04/09/2021
Butcher Jr.	Edgar	04/30/2023		Menke	Kurt	04/15/2004
Comfort	Timothy	04/14/2012		Miller	Joseph B.	04/03/2022
Crooks	Donald	04/20/2022		Myers, Sr.	Glen Dean	04/21/2022
Davis	John	04/06/2016		Nelson	Wilfred	04/03/2016
Engels	Gilbert	04/27/2020		Noreika	Richard	04/03/2023
Fazio	Peter	04/06/2021		Paskale	Joseph	04/09/2020
Flasco	Joseph	04/18/2008		Pelletier	Ronald	04/18/2025
Franciosi	Barbara Lee	04/08/2022		Petranek	Helen	04/14/2014
Fulkoski	Henry	04/10/2013		Rasp	Vicent	04/14/2014
Gilbert	Michael	04/15/2024		Salafia	Anthony	04/14/2014
Gill	John	04/19/2012		Skahan	Paul	04/21/2008
Grady	William	04/01/2008		Snyder	Donald	04/13/2011
Hawkins	Edward	04/05/2012		Stellenwerf	William	04/15/2024
Helmold	David	04/23/2008		Straub	Robert	04/18/2005
Hilt	Roy	04/20/2007		Thompson	Charles	04/03/2007
Hochstetler	Ken	04/25/2024		Tolsma	Vernon	04/24/2011
Holaday	Dexter	04/10/2017		Tompkins	Robert	04/22/2011
Holmes	Elmer	04/11/2020		Toppa Jr.	Peter	04/03/2016
Howell, Jr.	Peter	04/25/2008		Tracy	Kenneth	04/06/2024
Jacobsen	William	04/22/2010		Trombley	Michael	04/28/2020
Jahns	William	04/17/2009		Vlcek	Ralph	04/14/2019
Jewell	David	04/20/2021		Ward	James	04/01/2001
Jones	George	04/25/2014		Weymouth, Jr.	Milton	04/14/2014
Jones	Howard	04/21/2020		Willingham	Ellis	04/01/2007
Kearns	Breck	04/03/2023		Wojcik	Joseph	04/12/2016
Keck	Sean	04/26/2013		Zessos	Constantine	04/30/2005
Kennedy	Ralph	04/30/2005				



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

Thames River Heritage Park

DONATE Today is Thursday, February 26, 2026 Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.

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

TRHP In Search of Next Boat Operations Manager 2026 Season Learn More About the Position MORE INFO

2026 Lecture Series

This year's theme is Freedom: The Victories, Promises, and Potentials of 1776. The speakers will explore the meaning of freedom in America, examining its historical implications for various segments of society, all from a local perspective.

Learn More

(Image of a lecture series in progress)

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

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>

NLMS
New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum

CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM

About NL Harborcam Calendar Rental Lighthouses Library News Amistad Education

Good bye, Eagle!

(Image of the USS Constitution ship)

Saving our local maritime heritage sites through education, advocacy, & preservation.
From all of us at the New London Maritime Society, thank you for supporting our work to preserve history for the future.
Please **DONATE** to our **ANNUAL APPEAL!** #StandUpForScience #Museums4Science

Garde Arts Center



<https://gardearts.org/>

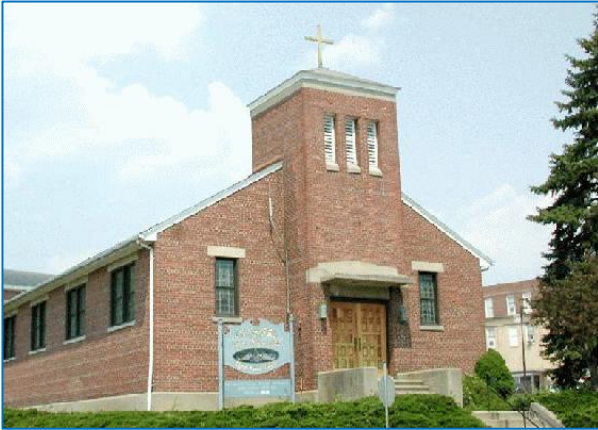
[All Events | Garde Arts Center](#) (click for more info)

Nautilus Submarine Force Museum

A recruitment flyer for the Nautilus Submarine Force Museum. The flyer features a large silhouette of a submarine in the background. At the top, there is a red banner with the text "Start and Start". Below this, the main headline reads "YOUR SERVICE IS NEEDED TODAY!". The text continues: "HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS SSN-571 SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM (SFM) IS ACTIVELY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO SERVE AS DOCENTS." It then lists the primary responsibilities of a docent, such as greeting people and giving guided tours. A section titled "SINCE THE SHIP'S DRYDOCK OVERHAUL IN 2022" mentions that the museum's outreach has grown by 300% to 500% every six months. At the bottom, there is a list of "POINTS OF CONTACT" with email addresses for the Officer in Charge, Docent Coordinator, Event Scheduling, Education Director, and Research and Archives. A logo for the US Navy Submarine Force Museum (USS Nautilus SSN 571) is also present. The flyer is decorated with an American flag on the left and a yellow and red vertical stripe on the right.

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

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

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USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT NEWS



Mission Statement: Dedicated to the men and women who design, build, operate, and maintain our Nation's submarines and the families and communities who support them.

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/>