



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



Website Address: <https://www.HRB-USSVI.org>

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USSVIHRB/groups/USSVIHRB/>

01 April 2023

Issue No: 2023-04

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

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide 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 organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also 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."

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[From the Base Commander](#)



Spring has finally arrived! The Submarine Birthday ball is right around the corner and hope all attending will have a great time. After this even we roll into the Holland Club induction, the Hall of Fame ceremony, Base Picnic, and then the National Convention which will be held in Tucson this year. We have had some active duty members join recently and it's good to see them wanting to be engaged. Hope the pollen does not create too many issues for some and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Keep a green board!

YNM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce,
USN,RET

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com or TVorce@Verizon.net

Hampton Roads Base Newsletter "Currents"

Published monthly and distributed on or about the 10th of the month. All submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, Tony Ficca, by email: Newsletter.HRB@gmail.com NLT the 1st weekend of the month.

Hampton Roads Base meetings are held at 11:15 hours, on the third Saturday of every month (except March) at FRA #60 located at 9601 1st View Street, Ocean View, Norfolk, VA



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**From the Base Senior Vice
 Commander**

MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles, U.S.N.
 (Ret.)



Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or
GaryGalles@HotMail.com

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**From the Base Junior Vice
 Commander**

ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)



Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com
 or tk593@AOL.com

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From the Base Secretary

This Easter reminds me of when Gary was out to sea one year. I decided to welcome him home with a surprise so my sitter helped with the plan. I went and rented an Easter Bunny suit and yes it did work very well. I had another wife guide me down the pier so I would not step on any of the children running at me. Yes, there were a lot of onlookers, especially from the Tender across from the other side. Yes I had a sign stating I am looking for Gary Merryman and wouldn't you know the minute he saw me he hid behind the sail. Thankfully I had a bathing suit on as it was very hot in the sun that day. My honey did accompany me down the hatch of the boat so I could get some cool air and this was a lot of fun for me to plan and carry out. So watch out for bunnies out there; they are everywhere.



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

Lynn Merryman

Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com

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From the Base Treasurer

As has been previously report National raised the USSVI dues effective 4/1/2023. HRB dues are always 1/2 of National. The following is the updated dues table for your reference:



Annual & Multi-Year Dues Table		
Effective 01-APR-2023		
USSVI National Dues	1 Year	\$ 30.00
	3 Years	\$ 85.00
	5 Years	\$ 140.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	1 Year	\$ 15.00
	3 Years	\$ 42.50
	5 Years	\$ 70.00
National & HRB Dues	1 Year	\$ 45.00
	3 Years	\$ 127.50
	5 Years	\$ 210.00

Lifetime Dues Table		
Effective 01-APR-2023		
Based on your age at time Lifetime dues are paid (2-3 month grace period)		
USSVI National Dues	76+ Years	\$ 120.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 240.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 360.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 500.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 600.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	76+ Years	\$ 60.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 120.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 180.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 250.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 300.00
National & HRB Dues	76+ Years	\$ 180.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 360.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 540.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 750.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 900.00

If you would like to make any payments (Donations, Base Sponsorships, Dues, etc.) to the base dues by Credit Card, please just send me an email to treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com and I can send you an invoice our Clover credit card pay app or just see me at the next Base Meeting. Also you can mail checks to: USSVI - Hampton Roads Base, C/O The UPS Store, 1215 N. Military Hwy., Box #813, Norfolk, VA 23502

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

ET1(SS) John (Sid) Sidlovsky

Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com
 or SidofVA@gmail.com

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From the Base Chaplain

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).



IC1(SS) Art Nelson

Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com
 or ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com



From the Base Storekeeper

From the Storekeeper:



As a reminder the Base store sells various items from submarine key chains to clothing. Also, we do accept those nautical items that you might have laying around the house that you no longer want to dust. We do sale those donated items and all proceeds are turned over to the Base Treasurer. Please note, that if there is anything that you would like to order, or if you have any questions about the merchandise that I have on hand, please reach out to me. Looking forward to spring and warmer weather. I hope you stay healthy and happy!

YNCS(SW/AW) Fran Vorce, USN, Ret.

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com

or francesvorce@gmail.com.

The CoB's Corner

looking for Volunteers to work Pier arrival Burger Burns. Hope to have a schedule soon.



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)

Gary2361@Yahoo.com

From the Editor

Happy April the Month we Celebrate the 123rd birthday of the US Submarine Force. I look forward to raising a glass and celebrating with all my Brothers and Sisters of the Pin.



MS2(SS) Tony Ficca U.S.N.

Any questions or contribution to the newsletter should be sent to the following email address

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

Membership

Membership drive is a 365-day job. Membership renewals should be done before the end of the year. It makes Sid and Lynn's job easier. Please renew your

dues now and consider life membership, then you never have to worry about it again. Thank you.

- # Members: 279
- # with E-mail: 261
- # Owe National Dues: 58
- # Owe Base Dues: 72



- # Regular Annual: 74
- # USSVI Life Members: 183
- # Base Life Members: 172
- # Holland Club: 129
- # Reg Associate: 10
- # Life Associate: 2
- # Charter Members: 0
- # Senior Members: 0
- # War Veterans: 249

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or

GaryGalles@HotMail.com

Ways & Means

As always, we're on the lookout for ideas for Base fundraising opportunities. You can present them to the Base leadership or contact me directly at any time.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com

or tk593@AOL.com

Public Relations and Publicity

The Base has purchased a feather flag for identifying our group at events. We will mount it outside the





FRA Hall when we have meetings. We hope this proves to be a positive recruitment for our group.



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

Lynn Merryman

Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com

 **Hampton Roads Base** 
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
"To Perpetuate the Memory of our Shipmates, who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country."

We are a fraternal organization of Submarine Veterans. We are open to and welcome any and all who have qualified to wear dolphins. Contact us by email at USSVI.HRB.Secretary@gmail.com with any questions and come visit our website at <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org>

Join us for our monthly meeting at 11:15 hours, the 3rd Saturday of every month (except March). We meet at FRA #60 in Ocean View, 9601 1st View Street, Norfolk, VA 23503-1603 (the corner of 1st View St. & Balview Ave. and across 'A' View Ave. from the Post Office).
We look forward to meeting you at a meeting.

Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame

Congratulations to our winner of HOF Boat

USS ATLANTA (SSN 712), in commissioned service from 1982 to 1999, and was nominated by Bill Heron.

Follow for more information as the induction ceremony is in planning for May 25th 2023

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

CAPT Ken Swan, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com



About The Base Website and Social Media

The web address for the Base website is:

<https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/>.

Note that the 'members only' area is currently being revised for new content. New Base members (or previous Base members who now wish to gain access to the 'members only' area) should take the following steps for access:"

1. Click on "Login" at the top right of the website pages.
2. Once selected look for blue lettering and
3. Select Sign up to create your account.

Note:

When entering your email address during account creation, please enter the same email address you used when joining the Hampton Roads Base. (If your email address has changed, please contact the Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman, to update your email in the Base roster BEFORE applying for or creating your account.)

Also of Note: The USSVI National website, while still under construction in some areas, is now open. You should have received a member-specific email recently detailing how to gain and maintain access to the site. Check your email for this important information from USSVI National.

The Website may be found at:

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

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

STS1(SS) Sam Stevens, U.S.N. (Ret.)

HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

Holland Club News

Gentlemen,

This year's Holland Club Induction Ceremony is scheduled for our April 15th meeting. Please join me in congratulating the following members that qualify but have not been inducted into the Holland Club:

Gary (Mike) Hansen qualified on USS Sea Devil (SSN 664) in 1970. Mike will not be able to attend and asked that I mail his package.

Bradley Matters qualified on USS Spadefish (SSN 668) in 1970. Brad now lives in Delaware and will not be able to attend and asked that I mail his package.

Oscar Hudson qualified on USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN 644) in 1972. Oscar will be inducted at our April meeting.

Anthony Walker qualified on USS Scamp (SSN 588) in 1972. Tony now lives in Florida and will not be able to attend and asked that I mail his package.

Robert (Mike) Rogers qualified on USS George Marshall (SSBN 654) in 1973. Mike is in Florida taking care of family issues and asked that we hold onto his package until he returns.

Robert (Bob) Saenz, our past Base Commander, qualified on USS George Bancroft (SSBN 643) in 1973. Bob has asked to be inducted at the National Convention in Tucson this year and Ted and I will be there for that.

Pat Urello qualified on USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 641) in 1973. Pat is also a member of Groton Base and will be inducted up there.

Craig Werner qualified on USS Pargo (SSN 650) in 1973. Craig will be inducted at our April meeting.

According to my latest roster HRB yellow hats now outnumber blue hats 132 - 128.

If you are eligible for induction into the Holland Club and have not been inducted, please contact me at bill.heron1@verizon.net.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

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[The Norfolk Sail Project](#)

We will be planning a fund raising raffle soon, Details to follow.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
Gary2361@Yahoo.com



[Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Submarine Brothers, Submarine Sisters, and other associated members of Submarine Veterans Hampton Roads Base, the Base Emergency Relief Fund was created to help base members in need without having to wait for the next base meeting. This will also, allow the member in need to discreetly reach out to one of the following members: Craig Dudley on my Cell (757-618-5624), EM2(SS) Paul Schmidt (Cell: 757-481-1297), or HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669), or contact our Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman (Cell: 757-354-7259). Then the members can talk about the issue privately and vote to approve or reject and once approved reach out to the Base Treasurer to get the funds released.

There is a designated ERF donation container at each of our meetings. All funds donated are kept separate from other Base Funds.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

Thank you to all that came out and supported the December Base Meeting. I hope you are excited to add the USS Atlanta to the Submarine Hall of Fame in May 2023.

MM1(SS) Craig S. Dudley
ERF.HRB@gmail.com or
CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com

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[The USS SCORPION Memorial](#)

The 55th USS Scorpion Memorial will be conducted by the Father Michael J. Bader Knights of Columbus Assembly on Sunday, 21 May at the Scorpion Memorial located at the Virginia War Memorial Museum, 9285 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA.

The ceremony will begin at 1400 and will include the presentation of a wreath to be taken to sea on a submarine or placed at the USS Scorpion Memorial in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Virginia Beach. Weather permitting, a picnic after the memorial

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).CWO4 John Donaldson, U.S.N. (Ret.)

John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net

St Patrick's Day Parade Ocean View

HRB Subvets participated in the Annual Ocean View parade for the first time. All of us who participated had a good time despite the cold chilly weather. The crowds were very receptive and welcoming to us all and we met a few new potential members, Getting active in the community and getting our information out to the public .



We remember....



Boats Lost in 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.

USS Grenadier (SS-210)

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 she was passing 130 feet, the plane dropped a bomb causing her severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom at 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 she was still without propulsion. When enemy ships arrived, the C.O. ordered the ship abandoned and scuttled the boat. Of the 61 crew members taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Lost on April 18, 1944, with the loss of 79 men off Saipan. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely was lost due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack, and on that patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

USS Snook (SS-279)

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 to a Japanese submarine.

USS Thresher (SSN-593)

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.



HRB Members with April Birthdays

(If I've gotten your birthday wrong, or missed it, please let me know.)

- 01: Chris Stole & John Fenter
- 04: Jim McDonald
- 06: Randy Kulp
- 07: Ed Magary & Jeff Cross
- 08: Pat Taylor
- 11: Ben Kern
- 12: Harry Seibel
- 13: Al Walters
- 15: Jim Hay
- 16: Charlie Walden & Errol Jennings
- 17: Lenny Antonik & Craig Dudley
- 20: George Williams
- 22: Jim Mason
- 23: Merrill Dorman
- 24: Earl Koepcke
- 29: Kirk Unruh



Base Officers & Key Personnel

(Remember: you must dial all 10 digits when contacting by phone)

Base Commander:

Ted Vorce
757-376-2458

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com
or TVorce@Verizon.net

Base Senior Vice Commander & Membership Committee Chair & Scholarship Committee Chair:

Gary Galles
757-714-2733

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or
GaryGalles@HotMail.com

Base Junior Vice Commander & Ways and Means Committee Chair & Events Committee Chair:

Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com
or tk593@AOL.com

Base Secretary & Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chair:

Lynn Merryman
757-354-7259

Secretary.HRBBase@gmail.com

Base Treasurer:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com
or SidofVA@gmail.com

Base CoB:

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-968-6708

Gary2361@Yahoo.com

Base Chaplain:

Art Nelson
804-920-6820

Chaplain.HRBBase@gmail.com
or ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com

Base Storekeeper:

Fran Vorce
757-376-2459

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator & Webmaster:

Sam Stevens
757-814-7976

SStvns7@gmail.com or
HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

Holland Club Chairman:

William (Bill) Heron
757-886-0913

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

Base Historian:

Paul R. Schmidt
757-572-2711

TheBakerPaul@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tony Ficca
757-646-1152

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

Submarine Memorial & Hall of Fame Committee Chair

Ken Swan
413-923-4030

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Coordinator:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

SidofVA@gmail.com

Base Emergency Relief Chair:

Craig Dudley
757- 618-5624

ERF.HRB@gmail.com or
CraigD.HRBBase@gmail.com

SCORPION Memorial Committee Chair

John Donaldson
757-270-0205

John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net

NORFOLK Sail Committee Chair

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-274-9322

Gary2361@Yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chair:

Brian Daugherty (Immediate Past Base Commander)
757-409-8560

BDaugherty7@Verizon.net

Hampton Roads Base Snail Mail Address:

US Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Hampton Roads Base
1215 N Military Hwy, Box 813
Norfolk, VA 23502-2228



United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI)

Hampton Roads Base

2023 Annual Base Sponsorship Program

Sponsor Level	Benefits	Donation
COLUMBIA Class Sponsor	2 Christmas Party Tickets 4 Summer Picnic Tickets 8 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$500*
VIRGINIA Class Sponsor	2 Christmas Party Tickets 2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$300*
SEAWOLF Class Sponsor	1 Christmas Party Ticket 2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$200*
OHIO Class Sponsor	2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$150*
LOS ANGELES Class Sponsor	1 Summer Picnic Ticket 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$125*
STURGEON Class Sponsor	3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$100*
41 for FREEDOM Sponsor	1 Raffle Ticket at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$75*
NAUTILUS Era Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$50*
DIESEL BOATS FOREVER Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$25*

As an added incentive, starting in 2023, if you renew your sponsorship at the same level or higher you will receive a 10% discount.

****Must attend the meeting to collect raffle tickets, all tickets are for the same raffle, your choice. *Donations are NOT tax-deductible.**



Kap(SS)for Kid(SS) Visit March 2023

3/21/23 KAP(SS)4KID(SS) NMCP visit

We had (2) Base & (2) Associate Members support this visit while I was out of town. It so special to see this program supported every month by the base and it greatly appreciated by the NMCP Staff and all the Military Families that we bring some humor, laughter and joy during some difficult times.

Our next KAP(SS)4KID(SS) visit is scheduled for Tue 4/18/23 10:00AM. If you are interested in helping with these visits, please reach out to me. As a reminder, all donations for this program are only used to support HRB KAP(SS)4KID(SS) program. Bravo Zula to all that support this monthly base outreach program.

