



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



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

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

01 March 2022

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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

Well, here we are in March, which means spring is right around the corner and so is the Submarine Birthday Ball. The Ball this year will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on 01-April. More details will be forthcoming, and I hope to see a lot of you there.

With the passing of Ed Kracker, Bud Warren is now our longest qualified member – congratulations Bud. We look forward to you cutting the cake at the Submarine Ball.

Keep in mind that the Submarine Convention this year will be in Buffalo, New York. Fran and I are currently planning to attend. If you have never seen Niagara Falls, please come on out and join us. Good food and fellowship. I would love to see a good turnout from Hampton Roads Base.

YNM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce,
U.S.N. (Ret.)



From the Base Senior Vice Commander

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



From the Base Junior Vice Commander

As we roll into spring and the weather improves, I'm looking ahead to our annual parade activities as well as some possible additions to them so that we are seen in more community events. Stay tuned for more to follow as details emerge and plans develop.

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



From the Base Secretary

Lynn Merryman



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From the Base Treasurer

ET1(SS) John(Sid) Sidlovsky



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From the Base Storekeeper

Hope this finds all of you well and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. We have been getting some great donations and remember that one man's junk is another man's treasure! From books, ball caps, coins, and candle holders we appreciate all the donations. On the FOR-SALE table, I continue to have ball caps, coins, stickers, key chains, license plates (good for the back of your car window), patches, and various other items. Also, I am helping Jenny, our sewing wench, sell some of her Submarine logo shirts and pullovers in various sizes and colors. If you are looking for something specific talk to me at the meeting or reach out to me at my email address below.



Blessings to all. XOXO.
YNCS(AW/SW) Fran Vorce, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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The CoB's Corner

We had a discussion at our February meeting about disability ratings and how to get them or increase them. We now have, on the Base Website, The Standard Form 180 (SF180), Request for Military Service Records, and instructions on how to get the Form. This is the first step in working towards getting or increasing a disability rating.



Additionally, this website, <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/locations/portsmouth-field-office>, has a link to the Veterans Services Office located at NMC-P, Bldg 3, 7th Floor (phone: 757-953-6205). They will help fill out all the paperwork needed to file a VA claim, at no charge (information from our new member Terry Miles).

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman

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From the Base Chaplain

I have met several submariners during the past month and invited them to our monthly meetings. After telling sea stories from the Ustafish, we had encouraged one another. If you need to be encouraged, be an encouragement to someone else. If nobody will encourage you, do what David did.



And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

1 Samuel 30:6 (KJV)

He encouraged himself in the Lord. Read the rest of 1 Samuel chapter 30 for the rest of the story.

If you need encouragement, reach out to me.

IC1(SS) Art Nelson

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From the Editor

Getting an informative newsletter out is a complex task. The individual articles have to be collected, edited, and placed in the newsletter for you. I'm trying to make this newsletter both interesting and informative so that you are looking forward to reading it each month and so you share it. If you have anything you want to see in the newsletter, you have to get it to me by the twenty-second of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please, don't hesitate to get them to me at: GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com



~ Stay Safe & Stay Well ~

EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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Membership

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

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Ways & Means

We are currently looking into holding another rifle raffle as it was a big hit last time. As always you can contact me with any ideas for base fundraising.

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

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Public Relations and Publicity

Lynn Merryman

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Upcoming Events

The 2022 Submarine Birthday Ball is now scheduled for 01-April at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. This year the Dolphin Scholarship Fund Silver and Gold auction will be held in conjunction with the ball.

Contact John Donaldson for more information on the auction including how to make a donation.

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

Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame

The Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame ceremonies will be held at 10:00 hours, Thursday, 26-May-2022 at the Submarine Learning Facility, Naval Station Norfolk. The SLF Trainer will be open for tours.

At this year's Submarine Memorial Service, we will be honoring all WWII Submarine Veterans, as always and specifically CWO2 Edward Henry Kracker, U.S.N. (Ret.), our shipmate, who went on eternal patrol at the age of 98 on 06-February-2022.

We will be installing the USS H.G. Rickover (SSN 709) as the HoF winner for 2022. For those really thinking ahead, 2023 HoF nominations will be held at our Base meeting in October. Check out the HRB Website page for past HoF winners <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/hall-of-fame-boat-program>.

Sysco and L-3 Harris have sponsored a picnic afterward in the past and we plan on another picnic this year as well.

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

About The Base Website and Social Media

The Base Website is strong but there is plenty of room for growth. What do YOU want to see on our website? Give me your suggestions, contact me through the website on ways to make our website better. Our Social Media presence is also strong and open to your service.

STS1(SS) Sam Stevens

The Norfolk Sail Project

Donations are being accepted to assist in purchasing merchandise and creating a log for future earnings for the sail project. Remember donations to the Sail Project are tax-deductible because it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman

The USS SCORPION Memorial

The USS Scorpion 53rd Memorial will be conducted via a Zoom Meeting on Sunday, 22-May-2022. Additional details will be provided as plans are finalized.

CWO4 John Donaldson, U.S.N. (Ret.)

KAP(SS)4KID(SS) News



We had a note from the Administrator of the NMC-P Pediatric ward that we visit monthly about our good works. I've included it below:

ET1(SS) John "Sid" Sidlovsky

We recently had a 17-year-old patient admitted to the pediatric inpatient ward. She has a chronic condition and needed an NG tube for treatment. An NG tube is literally a tube up your nose and down into your stomach. Getting an NG tube is a rather unpleasant experience, but unless the situation is warranted, patients are not sedated for the NG tube placement. That's right, you get to be awake for a tube up the nose! She had been having a pretty rough time being sick, then getting hospitalized and needed an IV and an NG tube. She was pretty bummed out when I met her. I went in and talked and asked her if she'd like some things to do. As I told her I had a Nintendo Switch she immediately perked up and said, "Wait, you have a Nintendo Switch?" She was shocked. I replied yes and that we had lots of games for her to choose from as well. She suddenly smiled and asked for the game system. When I brought it to her room and started showing her the different games, she immediately grabbed one game in particular saying, "oh my gosh, you have the Link game I've been wanting to try!". She became even happier, and more smiles followed. During all of this, her dad sat quietly observing nearby. He didn't say a word, but you could see the stress lessening in his body language and the gratitude on his face. These are just two of the many lives that HRB-USSVI SubVets have touched. Thank you so much to each of you who have and continue to make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families! Bravo Zulu Sub Vets!

Chris

Emergency Relief Fund

Tony Ficca has taken over as the new ERF Chairman. We still need another member to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please reach out to Tony or the Base Commander.

EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Newsletter Editor



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HRB Members with March Birthdays

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

- 01: Bob Saenz
 - 02: Mike Ammann
 - 05: Chris Harker
 - 06: Jim Stokes, & David Coffield
 - 09: Larry Hayes & Jenny Dugan
 - 12: John Donaldson & Roy Vess
 - 14: David Bridges
 - 15: Art Oman, Chuck Steenburgh, & Steven Mathews
 - 17: Pat Urello & Jeff Schmidt
 - 19: Joe Demnicki
 - 22: Barry Porter
 - 25: Brandon Hastey
 - 26: Bud Warren
 - 27: Carl Boyd, Ron Pervere, Ed Cirucci,
& Jason Melton
 - 30: Randy Strickland
-

We remember....



Boats Lost in March

USS F-4 (Skate) (SS 23): Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.

USS H-1 (Seawolf) (SS-28): Lost on March 12, 1920, with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Of the crew of 25, the CO and three other men were lost. Vestal (AR-4) pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

USS Perch (SS 176): Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her first war

patrol. She survived two severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the war and six died as POWs.

NB: Our brother, Turk Turner, now on eternal patrol, served on USS Perch.

USS Grampus (SS 207): Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging two Japanese destroyers.

USS Triton (SS 201): Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with three Japanese destroyers. Triton was the first boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine, and a destroyer.

USS Tullibee (SS 284): Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her fourth war patrol. It is believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

USS Kete (SS 369): Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her second war patrol. She was probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.

USS Trigger (SS 237): Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in the number of ships sunk.

*They shall not grow old as we who are left behind
grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
them.*

*From the rising of the sun in the morning, until
it's rising again the following morning,*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM,

FOREVER.



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It saddened me to report at our February meeting that we lost our last surviving World War II shipmate, Ed Kracker. I had the privilege of presenting him last month with his 76-year Submarine Qualification Certificate. At the meeting we had a moment of silence for Ed and flew the SVWWII flag for the last time. A legend has left us; however, his memory will always be with us. I wanted to share the below in honor of Ed:

**The Lord is my Pilot.
I shall not drift.**

**He leadeth me across the dark waters
and steereth me in the deep channels.
He keepeth my Log
and guideth me by the star of holiness
for His Name's sake.
Yea, though I sail amid
the thunders and tempests of life,
I shall dread no danger,
For Thou art with me;
They love and Thy care, they shelter me.
Thou preparest a harbor before me
in the homeland of eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil,
and my submarine rideth calmly,
Surely sunlight and starlight
shall favor me all the days of my voyaging,
And I will rest in the port of my Lord forever.**

By: Captain J. Rogers, Source: The Mast, September 1948.
I modified and took out the word ship and substituted submarine in honor of Ed. (TLV)

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***From the Naval Submarine League
On the passing of Ed Kracker***

Ed Kracker qualified on USS Bang (SS 385) in 1944, during WWII. He has embarked on his final patrol and shipped out to calm seas and warm breezes to join the company of his shipmates who have gone before him. He is safely navigating the seas of eternity and is welcomed by our loving God.

Rest your oar shipmate, we have the watch.

CAPT Peter A. Flannery, U.S.N. (Ret.)
President Hampton Roads Chapter Naval Submarine League

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Chief of the Boat (COB)

(a.k.a Crusty Old Bastard)

Here's to the Sailor called COB, which stands for Chef of the Boat.

He's generally the oldest and smartest of all the old goats afloat.

There have been many like him down the years, which have served on subs far and wide, and when work parties are needed on deck from him you cannot hide.

He's the senior Chief on board the boat, on him the officers rely, if they can't get something done real quick, to him they run and cry.

This makes him mad that they have to do this, but to them he says Aye, Aye.

He heads to take care of the problem, he yells, snarls and bellows, and after about a minute of this all you see, is Navy asses and elbows.

He don't take no guff, no crap, or back talk, you better do as you're told and he don't like his Sailors to be cocky, surly, or bold.

It only takes once to cross the COB, and you'll never see a sorrier gob, but if you do the best that you can and give your all to the boat, why he can be the nicest old guy you ever met afloat.

Without them who know what would happen, Chiefs are vital to the Navy it's true, but the smartest and best have taken the test and on submarines they do crew.

So, here's to the COB, he ain't pretty, but he knows a lot more than most and if you pay attention to him, someday you'll be able to boast, I learned it all from this old Chief back in '53, he was called the Chief of the Boat, but he was like a God to me.

So, get yourselves to working and we'll make our boat the best, I've got to walk this non-qual through and give him a final test.

For I have made the grade you see, I'm the senior Chief afloat, and my chest swells with a lot of pride, for I am the Chief of the Boar.

Dedicated to and many thanks to all the old COBs and Chiefs who keep our Navy afloat... and helped me when I was young and stupid.

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United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI)

Hampton Roads Base

2022 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 Ticket 2 Summer Picnic Ticket 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 Ticket 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 Ticket 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.**



United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI)

Hampton Roads Base

Annual Base Sponsors for 2022

Brian Daugherty - - - - - Sturgeon Level
Joe Demnicki - - - - - DBF Level
Bud Warren - - - - - Sturgeon Level
Craig Werner - - - - - Sturgeon Level

John Sidlovsky - - - - - Sturgeon Level
Ken Swan - - - - - Columbia Level
Dick Helm - - - - - DBF Level

Thank you for your support

