



# 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."*



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## USS HENRY CLAY SSBN 625 HALL OF FAME BOAT 2025

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Base Commander - Gary Galles, Present  
Base Senior Vice Commander - Adam Kingsley, Present  
Base Junior Vice Commander - Ron O'Donnell, Present  
Secretary – Anthony Ficca, Present  
Treasurer - John "Sid" Sidlovsky, Present

Members present 54    Guests present 7

### Regular Base Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2025

**The meeting was called to Order by the Base Commander, Gary Galles 11:15 hours and the normal meeting opening sequence was followed:**

- A moment of silence for our departed brother and sister submariners was observed. memorial banner was posted for three shipmates who departed on eternal patrol
  - Lcdr Jim Norton 1 Sept 25
  - Larry Sechtman 14 Aug 25
  - Melvin Leon Hallman 1 Sept 25
- The invocation was made by Art Nelson filling in for Chaplain Scott Wells
- The USSVI Creed was read by the Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander, Gary Galles
- The Tolling of the Boats Ceremony was read by Base Junior Vice Commander Ron O'Donnell, and the bell was rung by Senior Vice Commander Adam Kingsley
- A round robin of introductions, led by Base Chief of the Boat, Dave Johnston, was then held with all members present identifying themselves with their qualification boats along with introducing any guest they brought to the meeting.

#### **New members,**

Richard Jones

James Davis

#### **Other veteran group leaders**

Michael Sears USSVI SE District Commander

Byron Pinaldo 1<sup>st</sup> vice commander legion 357

Rick Severnghaus editor Submarine league Journal

VADM Gaucher subforce



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CMC Schecter Subforce  
**USS HENRY CLAY SSBN 625 HALL OF FAME BOAT 2025**

**Binnacle List – Base Chaplain Scott Wells 757-912-7395**

- Harley Dockens
- Paul Hanes
- Bill & Mary Heron
- John Fenter

**Program:** Commander Submarine Forces VADM Robert Gaucher

The program will be held earlier in the Meeting to Support Admiral Gaucher's additional commitments for the day

**Secretary's Report – Base Secretary, Tony Ficca.**

- Reminder to all to keep the base informed of changes in contact information IE Email. Phone address etc.

**Treasurer's Report – Base Treasurer- John "Sid" Sidlovsky**

- See attached dues table & financial reports
- Reminder we are heading into dues renewal season

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership Committee - Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley**

- We have 290 Base Members as of today.
- Badges Gary Merryman [gary2361@yahoo.com](mailto:gary2361@yahoo.com)
- Active-Duty Membership is free for the first year
- USSVI Longevity Pins
  - Ken Swan 20 year pin

**Scholarship Committee - Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley**

Winner awarded at August meeting

**Programs & Events Committee - Base Junior Vice Commander, Ron O'Donnell**

**Upcoming events:**

2025 Neptune Festival Grand Parade September 27<sup>th</sup>

October honor flight 18<sup>th</sup> October

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall Virginia Beach November 7<sup>th</sup>,

3 people per hour 1300 1400 and 1500 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to help people locate names on wall

50th Anniversary Viet Nam/Veterans Day Parade November 11<sup>th</sup>



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**Ways and Means Committee** - Base Junior Vice Commander, Ron O'Donnell

**Storekeepers Report** - Base Storekeeper Sid filling in for John Fenter

**Public Relations and Publicity Committee** – Ron O'Donnell

Bodacious Bazaar 10-7 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 10-5 9<sup>th</sup> volunteers need to work booth

**Newsletter Committee:** – Newsletter Editor, Anthony Ficca

Nothing to report at this time

**Holland Club Committee** - Chairman, Bill Heron

Make sure that your national website profile is up to date so we can confirm Holland Club eligibility

**SCORPION Memorial Committee** – Chairman, Bill Heron

May 24<sup>th</sup> 2026 Scorpion Memorial

**Website and social media** – Base Webmaster, Sam Stevens

No report at this time

**Hall of Fame /World War II Committee** – Chairman, Ken Swan

Reminder that our next meeting in October will be the time to nominate boats as candidates for Hall of Fame 2026

**Kaps (SS) Kids Committee** – Chairman, John "Sid" Sidlovsky

Visited on 8/19 next visit 930 on 9/28/25 on third floor of bldg. 3

Sid and Beverly made presentation on program at the national convention

**Hampton Roads (ERF) Committee** – Chairman, Jack Ritz

**Event Coordinator – Beverly Galles**

- The holiday party in December will have tickets go on sale at the September meeting
- Sandcastle resort 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> December potluck on Friday evening , banquet on Saturday night after Army Navy game. Secret Santa 20\$ gift

**USSVI 2028 Convention Committee** - Chairman, Dave Duffie'

- We Have been awarded the National USSVI Convention for 2028  
We will be looking into setting up sponsorships  
Looking to add members to volunteer for the Convention Committees



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**OLD Business:**

Update on the Norfolk Sail Gary Galles The Sail was given to comsublant will be trying to get at gate 5 submarine piers

The 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball October 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 special pricing and ticket registration info will be mailed out

**New Business:**

American Legion donated 200 to us it was proposed that it be donated to caps for kids approved by membership by voice vote

Vote to shift 800 from general fund to ERF approved by membership via voice vote

**National USSVI Ben Bestura Historical award**

National award David Johnston for his work with PigBoats .com website and USS Dorado Project  
[https://pigboats.com/index.php?title=Dorado\\_Search\\_Fund\\_Raising](https://pigboats.com/index.php?title=Dorado_Search_Fund_Raising)

**Good of the Order:** Report on the 2025 USSVI Convention Highlights from Our Members who attended

National working on a new website should be up by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

Congratulations to the New Chiefs Initiated into the Chief's Mess this year

MMC(SS) Casimir Placek

There will be a boat returning home this week we will gather to welcome them home New Mexico  
Returning to home port. Email sent out

Update on HRB name badge Policy you must have either a badge or vest with your name displayed

The post kitchen is interested in offering lunches for sale on meeting days if there is enough interest

**Review of Boats lost in this month: Junior Vice Commander Ron O'Donnell**

**Tolling of the Boats for September**

USS S-5 (SS-110)

USS Grayling (SS-209)

USS Pompano (SS-181)

USS S-51 (SS-162)

USS Cisco (SS-290)



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**Birthdays For September - Base Commander, Gary Galles birthdays of Members recognized**

**Rock 50/50 – Beverly Galles      winner      Bill Rearick      \$ 133      base \$ 96**

**Booze Raffle– Beverly Galles      winner      John Baldwin cash prize      base \$ 89**

**Next Meeting - Base Commander, Gary Galles**

**Our next Regular Base meeting will be October 18, 2025 11:15**

**We will keep you posted if events change.**

**Meeting Adjourned \_\_\_\_\_1343\_\_\_\_\_.**

Submitted by

Anthony Ficca Base Secretary

Approved by

Gary Galles Base Commander