



# 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."*



### USS Henry Clay SSBN 625 Hall of Fame Boat 2025

15 November 2025

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 57 Guests present 3

#### Regular Base Meeting Minutes for November 15, 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.
- The invocation was led by the Base 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.

**Welcome any Visitors.**

**"Any visiting National, Regional, District Representatives, or Members of other Bases (please stand and be recognized)." -Base Commander Gary Galles.**

**"Any leadership from other veteran's organization (Please stand and be recognized)"**

Byron Pianalto 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander American Legion Post 327

Rick Severinghaus Naval Submarine League

**Any new members** - Please stand and be recognized.

New Base Members:

Croy Endsley USS John Warner

Fred Needham USS Narwal

Mike Dickerson USS Henry I Simpson

Michael Jabaley USS Drum

**Introduction & Round Robin of Member Introductions – Jr Vice Ron O'Donnell for Cob**

**(Visitors, New members, and All Base members stand and give their name, qual boat, and qual year).**

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

Harley Dockens - stroke recovery

Harry Biela - upcoming hip replacement

Paul Hanes - general health; COPD

Scott Wells - fractured ankle recovery

**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.
- Base business cards are available to use in recruiting these business cards include QR Codes that will lead people to our base webpage and information about our meeting location.
- Please remember to review your online profile at the national website to ensure your membership information is correct especially your Qualification date information for Holland Club inductions and for longevity of membership the site is <https://ussubvets.org/home.asp> If you find information that is incorrect or missing please send the needed changes to Myself or Sid

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

2026 National and HRB dues are due NLT 12/31/25 for Annual Members

You can make Dues Payments with Zelle. Use email [Treasurer@hrb-ussvi.org](mailto:Treasurer@hrb-ussvi.org)

**Committee Reports:**

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

- We have 294 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

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

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

250<sup>th</sup> US Navy Birthday Ball Saturday October 18th the Hilton Main Norfolk

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall Virginia Beach November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

March of 2026 we will once again participate in the Norfolk Saint Patrick's Day Parade

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

**Storekeepers Report** - Base Storekeeper John Fenter multiple items for sale

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

Bodacious Bazaar took place Nov 7-9 at Hampton Convention Center 8am-5pm we met multiple new potential members, applications and business cards and pens were given out to increase public awareness of our organization.

Vietnam memorial wall displayed at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. We helped by sending hosts to help visitors.



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

I would like to discuss whether someone would like to take over the newsletter, or whether with monthly meeting minutes being mailed out is a newsletter needed other than a year in review edition covering events that we participated in.

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

If you qualified in 1976 you will Be inducted into the Holland Club in April of 2026

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

We will once again be working the Knights of Columbus in Newport News in May 2026 to Remember the Scorpion and Support the Families they left behind.

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

Our Base Webpage <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/>

Our Base Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/325304167605241/>

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

This month's (November) meeting welcomes Hall of Fame presentations for USS Flying Fish and USS Louisville, both of which were nominated during the October meeting. Thanks to Tony Ficca and Michael Jabaley for making these nominations and presentations. 2026 HOF Voting will be in person during the December meeting. Attached please find the presentations giving to support the two nominated boats.

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

Visit in October was supported by a Peanut M&M



Next visit Tuesday 18 November at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center

**Hampton Roads (ERF) Committee** – Chairman, Jack Ritz No requests to report this month.

**Event Coordinator – Beverly Galles**

- The holiday party in December tickets are currently on sale 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> of December \$35 tickets. 5\$ disc for members
- Registration forms have been emailed out to membership.
- Make your Sandcastle Hotel Reservations this month ASAP, so we can meet our 30 room night min. to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room for free. Rooms \$99 per night
- Hospitality room opens at Noon on Friday
- \$20 gift swap option to participate.

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

- We Have been awarded the National USSVI Convention for 2028

**OLD Business:**

**New Business:**

Brian Daugherty will discuss base officer nomination and election procedure . Nominations for the slate of elected officers will be this month . and voting will be at our December meeting with the swearing in being done at our January meeting.

Nominees for slate of officers to be voted on in December.

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

**Good of the Order:**

December e board meeting. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at the Sandcastle Hotel

If you've been affected by the government shutdown the base will offer interest free loan for tickets and/ or hotel room fees for the holiday party at the sandcastle please contact Gary Galles

Nick Tuuk CDR will become the new CO of USS John Warner change of command December 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Tolling of the Boats for November**

USS Albacore SS-218

USS Growler SS-215

USS Scamp SS-277

USS Corvina SS-226

USS Sculpin SS-191

**Birthdays For November - Base Commander, Gary Galles (Please bring the Birthday List with you)**

**Rock 50/50 – Beverly Galles      winner      Tony Ficca      \$      132      base \$95**

**Booze Raffle– Beverly Galles      winner      Tony Ficca Woodford Reserve      base \$ 112.**

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

**Our next Regular Base meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:15**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 12:49.**

Submitted by

Anthony Ficca Base Secretary

Approved by

Gary Galles Base Commander