



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

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

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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



Shipmates:
Since our meetings have resumed, we have had a great turnout at the FRA. The room has been full and we're looking forward to 2022 with more Vets coming out and supporting the USSVI Hampton Roads Base. I will be sworn in at the January 15th meeting for an additional two more years. If you have recommendations or suggestions for our Base, please reach out to me via email or phone. The Christmas party was a huge success, thank you, Gary and Beverly Galles, for such a great event. The food, music, and gifts were just perfect. In the year ahead we are going to need more members to step up to help with different committees. If you find yourself wondering, what can I do to help, just ask a committee member and they will have no problem at all giving some direction. All hands on deck would

be great! Fran and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Keep a green board and hope to see you at our January 15th, 2022, meeting.

YNM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce,
U.S.N. (Ret.)
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From the Base Senior Vice Commander



As we welcome in the new year, we are thankful that we have restarted some of our events that were canceled due to Covid-19. We have resumed our meetings at FRA-60 in Norfolk. We have had elections, and I will continue as Senior Vice Commander. Thank you for all your continued trust and support. If you missed it, the Winter Holiday Party was held at the Best Western Plus Sandcastle Beachfront Hotel with great success. Beverly did a lot of great work. We had a new caterer and a

new D.J. this year and we had a great time as usual. We have resumed the parades, with the new look of the personnel trailer. Thanks to Sid for pushing that project through. We had our first visit to the Naval Hospital Pediatrics Ward for KAP(SS)4KID(SS). We are trying to determine if we want to sponsor the 2024 USSVI National Convention. If this happens, we will need a lot of help. Now is the time to volunteer for this. Please see someone from Base Leadership for roles that you can fill to assist OUR base. As you can see, we have a healthy base. Attendance is good, much healthier than some other military fraternal organizations. The only way this is going to continue is to continue building our membership. Please help.

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

From the Base Junior Vice Commander

Welcome to the new year. I look forward to serving another term and doing great things with the base.



Attendance and membership have been slowly climbing since we started meeting again. As we roll into spring and hopefully get back to normal, I'll be looking for parades and other community events to get us out there and publicized. As always if anybody has ideas on how to get us recognized and involved feel free to bring it up with the leadership and we'll discuss it.

R/
 ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley U.S.N. (Ret.)

From the New Base Secretary

Hello all, I plan on reaching out as often as possible to inform our group of information as required as your new secretary starting on the 15th of January 2022. I will be sitting down with the outgoing secretary for our turnover and at first, I will not lie it will be scary due to learning the program we use to update our system. However, all will fall into place. I hope the next two years are as fun and educational as I hope they are going to be.



Lynn Merryman

From the New Base Treasurer

It was my honor to be voted in by the Base Membership to serve the 2022/2023 term as Base Treasurer effective our next Base Meeting in Jan.



I wish to extend sincere thanks to the outgoing Treasurer Brian Daughtry and also to Craig Werner that served for many years before him. You both make for very some tough shoes to fill with your stewardship; with attention to details that ensures Base Funds are accounted for correctly and in a matter that earns and maintains the trust of the membership of our base. Bravo Zulu to you both for always stepping up to serve in any capacity that the Base needs.

ET1(SS) John(Sid) Sidlovsky

From the Base Storekeeper

Our ship store is doing great! I appreciate all the Veterans looking through the merchandise and finding things to purchase. At the meetings, we also have some leftover items from the National Convention that I sell for our sewing wench, Jennie. Some of those items include polo shirts, face masks with the submarine logo, and warm vests to wear over shirts. I set up two tables at every meeting. One has for sale items and the other table is for donations. In addition, I have a binder you can look through to find specific patches. Keep in mind, that if you have books or memorabilia laying around that you are tired of looking at, please bring it to the meeting and you can donate it to your Base Storekeeper – me! I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



YNCS(AW/SW) Fran Vorce, U.S.N. (Ret.)

The CoB's Corner

Happy New year 2022. In a new monthly segment, called the Cob's Corner. Each month I hope to provide updates in the Newsletter on any information on either assisting my brothers and sisters in updating or getting any disabilities available from the VA and ensuring badges are created for the group to make sure you do not have to pay a fee for not having your badge. More to follow for more projects coming soon. Please contact me if you have



ideas on making 2022 a successful year for the Base at the following email address gary2361@yahoo.com.

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman

From the Editor



Here we are, a new year and a new editor for your newsletter. Please, bear in mind that this is the first issue and I'm still coming up to speed on this. Future issues will have other features as I can add them in. It is my goal to get the newsletter out by the 5th of the month every month. That's my goal, now I will have to work on meeting it. I need your help with the newsletter. Specifically, I need your input. I won't promise to use everything that is sent to me, but I will use as much as I can that I think is appropriate. You can email me any input at grumpyoldsquid@gmail.com preferably by the 25th of the month.

~ **Stay Safe & Stay Well** ~

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

From the Executive Board

The E-Board met during the Winter Holiday Party. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

- 1) The 2024 USSVI National Convention was discussed but a final decision to submit our bid to host it has not been made. We still have time but need more members to step up and commit to supporting the committee before we can submit our bid.
- 2) The Base budget was reviewed and approved. If all goes as planned, we will not have a deficit in 2022.
- 3) A prime focus of the Base for 2022 is to increase membership. We need to increase our membership with more active members. The average age of the Base membership is 70+. We are getting older and less active so we need to recruit members who can do more.
- 4) We will be restarting the Base Sponsorship Program to help our coffers. The program will be the same as it was with the same benefits at the different sponsorship levels. As an added incentive, starting in 2023, if you renew your sponsorship at the same level or higher you will receive a 10% discount. The chart of sponsorship levels is attached to this newsletter. (See the Sponsorship Program's specifics below.)

- 5) We are looking for someone to take over as the coordinator of our Summer Picnic. Rock did a great job, and we need someone to fill his shoes.
- 6) We are buying an 8"x8" brick to be engraved and included in the front of the FRA in its memorial walkway.

Lastly, if you have a concern or suggestion about the Base, how it is run, where we meet, or ANYTHING ELSE, please bring it up to any of the Base Leadership Team, elected officers, or appointed Executive Board members.

The Norfolk Sail Project

As we start the New year, we basically start over developing our project for building a submarine memorial park for the USS NORFOLK Sail. We are a nonprofit 501c group and hope to really get use of it this year. Within the next few days, I plan on meeting with HBA Architecture and Interior Design, Inc. to begin new plans to present to the city for developing a park in the Ocean View area to place the sail. Since I have your attention, if you know of any corporations or groups, with the exception of Huntington Ingalls Industries, please let me know. Also, we have lost a member of our committee since he has moved out of the area. If interested please let either me, Adam Kingsley, or Brian Daugherty know. More to follow.

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman



We remember....



Boats Lost in January

USS S-36 (SS 141): Lost on January 20, 1942, with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.

USS S-26 (SS 131): Lost on January 24, 1942, with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO, and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

USS ARGONAUT (SS 166): Lost on January 10, 1943, with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Japanese destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth-charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gunfire.

USS SCORPION (SS 278): Lost on January 5, 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

USS SWORDFISH (SS 193): Lost on January 12, 1945, with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.

*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.

KAP(SS)4KID(SS) News



On December 15th the K4K crew visited NMC-P. I'm pleased to announce that our KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Team was the first group outreach program allowed to resume our monthly visits to NMC-P Building 2 Ward 4B serving Pediatric Hematology/Oncology thanks to the efforts of Chris Brogan, a Child Life Specialist at the Hospital. Our last visit was in January of 2020, so it has been a long 23-month delay due to COVID-19. We are one of only two groups that visit each month. Earlier, in December, we gave the Ward a Nintendo Switch with six new games to supplement the two units and games that they already had. Chris was very grateful for this help for the kids under his care and told me that they would all be put to very good use. Our visit was on December 14th, 2021. We had four Base Members that attended, and we visited four Girls one aged 10 days, two aged 4 years, one aged 8 years. With the approval of the E-Board, we purchased small Christmas gifts for each child. For this visit, we could just barely enter the children's rooms as we were maintaining the appropriate COVID-19 protocols. For each child visit, a lead base member made our normal presentation of the Honorary Submariner Certificate, a coloring book with crayons, a ballcap, and a plushy USSVI KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Elephant. These were given to the Parent to hand to their child. These Elephants are always a big hit with the kids and a special thanks go to Craig Werner for finding and getting them logoed for us. After the above normal presentation was done, I would step in at the end and say: You might not know that Submariners get to go to the North Pole. I have been there twice so I'm on a first-name basis with Santa Claus. So, he heard that you were a little under the weather and asked me to personally deliver a special early Christmas gift to you. If it is okay with your mom (or dad), you can even open it early. Obviously, the parents gave their



permission, and it was just so special to see a child's eyes light up as they tore off the wrapping of the early hand-delivered straight from the North Pole Christmas Gift. The "Pets Alive" Pug Dogs that shake their behinds was a major hit with the two 4-year-old girls. Honorable mention goes to Brian Daughterly for teaming up with me the day before to make a trip to the Navy Exchange to help Santa out with the gifts. We had two extra and we donated them to NMCP to give out later. Our next visit is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19th (instead of the normal Tuesday after our Monthly USSVI Base Meeting. If you are interested in participating, you need to be in good health and be fully COVID-19 vaccinated. The COVID-19 Booster is not required, this requirement is on the honor system as you do not need to show a COVID-19 vaccination card. Please call or text me at (757) 328-9796 if you are planning to attend.

John "Sid" Sidlovsky, ET1(SS) – Treasurer-Elect, KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Co-Chairman, ERF Chairman

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Once again, the **Best Western Plus Sandcastle Beachfront Hotel** was the scene of our annual Holiday Party. More than 40 members and guests were scheduled to attend either or one or both days of the event. Bravo Zulu to Beverly and the rest of her team that did the heavy lifting that made the event enjoyable. As Beverly says, many hands make for short work both in setting up and closing out. Thank you to all who helped. Friday evening and Saturday afternoon snacks and munchies were a potluck, consumed along with a few (or more) adult beverages before dinner Saturday. Before and after The Saturday Banquet, door prizes were awarded. See the pictures below.

The banquet table setting.

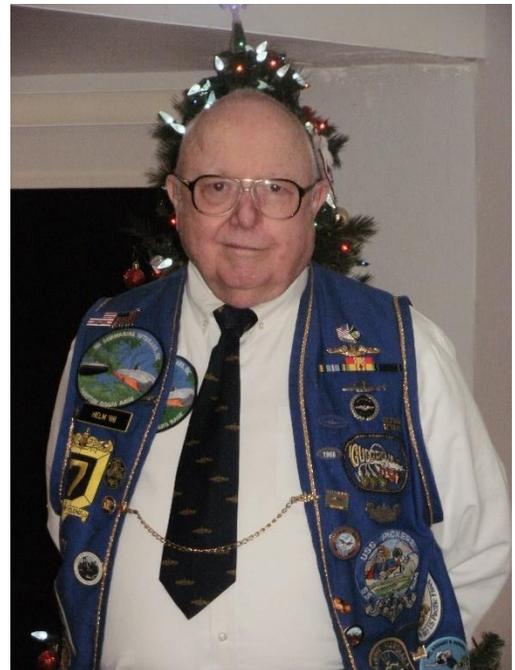


Pictures in front of the tree.











Some people came to breakfast Sunday morning.





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HRB Members with January Birthdays

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

- 03: Earl Densten, Mike Lamy, Steve Schultz
- 05: Ken Karr
- 07 Shirley Begay
- 08: Rich Corey, Ed Bourne, David Hinkle
- 10: Ron Hyson
- 11: Jim Gazard
- 12: Alford Crowder
- 14: Bob Philipps
- 18: Al Budd, ***HRB Commissioned 1998***
- 19: Ruben Holstrom
- 20: Tony Franzitta
- 23: Brian Krammes, Harry Biela
- 24: Tom Thompson
- 26: Robert Frye
- 27: James Beauchamp
- 28: Denny Olson, Robert Tobin, Brian O'Neill
- 29: Alan Stubbe
- 30: David Yoh, Glen Little, Curtis Thompson, Dennis Myers

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Base Officers & Key Personnel

Base Commander:

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Stern Shots

Scrape the barnacles from your brain and match these famous naval sayings with their appropriate hero in history. (Our source is "Reef Points.")

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ 1 "He who will not risk cannot win." | A Farragut at Mobile Bay. |
| ___ 2 "We have met the enemy and they are ours." | B Commander Howard Gilmore, USS <i>Growler</i> , ordering his crew to leave him on deck, wounded as he was, and submerge to save the ship (see photo below). |
| ___ 3 "Good discipline is considered by all who know anything of service as the vital part of a ship of war." | C Fleet Admiral William Halsey's battle cry. |
| ___ 4 "You may fire when ready, Gridley." | D Dewey at Manila Bay, 1898. |
| ___ 5 "Damn the torpedoes; four bells, Captain Drayton. Go ahead, Jouett." | E Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. |
| ___ 6 "Hit hard, hit fast, hit often." | F Commander Eugene P. Wilkinson, USS <i>Nautilus</i> . |
| ___ 7 "A ship is always referred to as 'she' because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder." | G Sir Winston Churchill. |
| ___ 8 "Underway on nuclear power." | H John Paul Jones. |
| ___ 9 "The advantage of sea power used offensively is that when a fleet sails no one can be sure where it is going to strike." | I Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry at Lake Erie, 1813. |
| ___10 "Pick out the biggest and commence firing." | J Captain Thomas Truxtun. |
| ___11 "If that fellow wants a fight we won't disappoint him." | K Captain Mike Moran, USS <i>Boise</i> , at Cape Esperance. |
| ___12 "Take her down." | L Captain Isaac Hull, USS <i>Constitution</i> , 1811. |
| | M Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan. |

The Answer Key is at the bottom of the page (no peeking now).

Answers: 1 (H), 2 (J), 3 (I), 4 (D), 5 (A), 6 (C), 7 (E), 8 (F), 9 (G), 10 (K), 11 (L), 12 (B).



Why Some Submarines Return to Port Flying Pirate Flags

The USS Jimmy Carter returns to its home port, flying a jolly roger flag. (U.S. Navy/Lt. Cmdr. Michael Smith)
Military.com | By [Blake Stilwell](#)

When the USS Jimmy Carter sailed into its home port in Washington state in September 2017, it was flying an unusual flag: the distinctive skull and crossbones of a Jolly Roger. There's no telling exactly what the Jimmy Carter was doing at sea, as its missions are probably among the most closely guarded secrets in the U.S. Navy, but submarines fly those pirate flags when they return from a mission after some kind of "operational action." While no one outside of the crew can tell you what that "operational action" entailed, the history of Western submarines flying the Jolly Roger upon a successful return is a funny bit of history.

Submarines haven't always been an accepted part of naval warfare. When they first became a viable technology, some old sailors thought they were a less-than-gentlemanly act of war. They compared the idea of silently striking the enemy from under the waves to an act of piracy. Whether the old salts liked it or not, submarines were here to stay. And as if to prove you can't just call sailors anything you happen to find derogatory, those early submariners adopted the pirate theme and made it their own.

Sir Arthur Wilson was the first sea lord of England's Royal Navy when submarines entered active service. He was a great naval officer and Victoria Cross recipient while at sea. But by land, even as first sea lord, Wilson wasn't impressing anyone. He's mostly remembered for a short tenure, marked mostly by being a loud crank. No matter how cranky Wilson was, he was still in charge. If he thought submarines were a dirty way of fighting, one would think he'd ax the program. Instead, he did the opposite, actually promoting the use of submarines as a future for the Royal Navy. Being the first sea lord that no one seemed to like might have been the reason he gets credited for saying submarines were "underhanded, unfair and damned un-English." There's no actual proof he said this, but history isn't kind to unlikable people. What Wilson did say about submarines came long before he was the one making the decisions for the navy, because it also flies in the face of what he actually did as first sea lord. "They'll never be any use in war, and I'll tell you why. I'm going to get the First Lord to announce that we intend to treat all submarines as pirate vessels in wartime and that we'll hang all the crews."

When World War I broke out in 1914, the Royal Navy's submarines got their first taste of naval combat. A contemporary of Wilson's, Lt. Cmdr. Max Horton was out to sea aboard one of England's earliest submarines, the HMS E9. Horton and the E9 were off the coast of German islands in the North Sea when they came upon the German light cruiser Hela. Horton torpedoed Hela from 600 yards, and the cruiser was soon at the bottom of the sea. The E9 evaded German anti-submarine efforts for the entire voyage back to safer waters, but once it arrived back in port, Horton hoisted a large Jolly Roger flag, a nod to Wilson's threat of hanging his triumphant crew. For every subsequent enemy he sunk, Horton intended to raise another pirate flag, but he ran out of room. Instead, he increased the size of his boat's Jolly Roger and started adding symbols and other information to denote the submarine's victories, similar to how airmen marked their kills on the nose of an aircraft. Thus, a new tradition for submarines was born. By World War II, the practice not only grew but pirate flags actually were issued to submarine crews. Submariners from Allied nations also joined in on the practice and have flown their Jolly Rogers ever since. The personnel of the British submarine HMS Utmost showed off their Jolly Roger in February 1942 (Royal Navy/Imperial War Museum). While some of the markings on these pirate flags are self-explanatory, others will be known only to the crew. When the Jimmy Carter returned to its Washington port flying one, there was a symbol on the flag -- but good luck finding out what that means.

-- *Blake Stilwell can be reached at blake.stilwell@military.com. He can also be found on Twitter [@blakestilwell](#) or on Facebook.*



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.**

