

USS Flying Fish SSN 673 Hall of Fame Boat 2026

21 March 2026

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 4

Regular Base Meeting Minutes for March 21 2026

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.
- Banner for eternal patrol posted for Departed Member David D. Carney Capt.SC Ret departed on Eternal Patrol Sunday March 8th 2026
- The invocation was led by Chaplain 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.

Spencer Combos Tarheel base

“Any leadership from other veteran’s organization (Please stand and be recognized)”

Byron Pianalto 1st Vice Commander American Legion Post 327

A J Cole Commander SAL American Legion Post 327

Rick Severinghaus Naval Submarine League

Any new members - Please stand and be recognized.

ETVCM(SS) Jason Cooper

RM1(SS) Kevin Williams

RADM Matthew Zirkle

Introduction & Round Robin of Member Introductions – Base Chief of the Boat, Dave Johnston

(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

Paul Hanes

Lynn and Barbara Moran

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 card include QR Codes that will lead people to our base webpage and the information about our meeting location

Treasurer’s Report – Base Treasurer- John “Sid” Sidlovsky

- 2026 National and HRB dues are now past due for Annual Members. Please pay ASAP as to not risk your longevity if purged by National.
You can make Dues Payments by Zelle. Use email Treasurer@hrb-ussvi.org
- Consider donating or renewing your Base Sponsorship for 2026.

- 2026 Life Dues Installment Program starts next month. Make 10 easy payments so you can become a USSVI National & HRB Life Member in Nov.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley

- We have 300 Base Members as of today.
- Badges Gary Merryman gary2361@yahoo.com
- Active-Duty Membership is free for the first year
- USSVI Longevity Pins
Jack Ritz 15 yrs

Scholarship Committee - Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley

All info updated on the base website

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

Submarine 126th Birthday Ball has been Scheduled for Friday April 17th a dedicated event email was sent out on Friday March 13th

The Sub Ball is set. This year it will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on the 17th of April 2026 from 1800 -0000. COMSUBLANT is having a VIP reception from 1700-1800, in which SubVets are invited to, Tickets are \$70 per person, and Sid will take your payment, free by Zelle or the customary surcharge by credit card. The tickets must be purchased by 3 April 2026. Please inform Gary by text or phone call if you are attending. Uniform of the Day: Ties with vests/Evening dress.

Memorial Day Parade in Portsmouth

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

Storekeepers Report - Base Storekeeper John Fenter

Recently donated books on donation table available

New hats are being ordered.

Public Relations and Publicity Committee – Ron O'Donnell

Newsletter Committee: – Newsletter Editor, Anthony Ficca

Nothing to report at this time.

Holland Club Committee - Chairman, Bill Heron

Our 2026 Holland Club Induction will be held during our 18 April regular Base Monthly Meeting. 10 of the 14 Members eligible for Induction plan to be here. If anyone knows how to reach Charles Bush please let me know. He qualified on the Tecumseh in 1976. The email address and phone number in the Base Roster no longer valid.

SCORPION Memorial Committee – Chairman, Bill Heron

The Scorpion Memorial will be held Sunday 24 May at the Knights Of Columbus, 12742 Nettles Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. Same format as last year.

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/>

We Now Have a presence on X formerly known as twitter

Kaps (SS) Kids Committee – Chairman, John “Sid” Sidlovsky report will be given by Beverly Galles

- Recent Kaps(SS) for Kids visit took place on Tuesday 02/24/26 at 10:00 hrs There was 3 Base Members and 1 associate member and 1 Guest, We revisited 3 patients and met 1 new one
- The Next visit will Take place on 03/24/26 at 10:00
- I have taken over as the National Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Chairman & USSVCF Fund Manager from John Riley that held that position for 16 years.
 - Beverly Galles is my Backup Chairman & USSVCF Fund Manager, the first Associate Member to have a National Position in both organizations.

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

Event Coordinator – Beverly Galles

Base Picnic July 18th 2026, ticket sales will begin at next months meeting registration form will be attached to this base minutes report

Holiday Party questionnaire is being offered for those interested in Holiday Party 2026Combos

USSVI 2028 Convention Committee - Chairman, Dave Duffie' will not be present today Gary will cover convention info

- We Have been awarded the National USSVI Convention for 2028
- We received our first corporate sponsorship 5000 from VFW post 392

- Looking for volunteers to help with Getting Various Clubs who have gambling to donate a portion of their profits to our Convention.

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

Planning has begun for 2026 WWII Memorial and HOF program with USS Flying Fish being the HOF Boat.

The date has been confirmed to be Thursday 28 May 2026

.

Today's Program

Guest Speaker George Lutz from Honor and Remember

OLD Business:

Adam Kingsley will update us on the updated base bylaws and the procedure to adopting and implementing the updated changes.

New Business:

Good of the Order:

Members of USS Flying Fish Crew are planning a Reunion to coincide with the induction ceremony of Flying Fish SSN673 into the hall of fame this will take place at the Norfolk Airport Hilton 27-29th of May

Tony Ficca will discuss the website: togetherweserved.com this site can be used to connect with former members of all branches of the service. I have flyers with a code to help you get information and get started using the website.

Gary: The National Awards nomination period is open. Follow the requirements of the National Award Manual and submit your nominations to Brian Daugherty.

SOY schedule of events:

- Reception – 11Apr26, 1700 @ Cutlass, \$10 if not a member
- Tides game
- No host dinner Mon and Tuesday
- SOY competition and presentation (presentation may have limited invites)

Silversides reunion 1-5 Oct 2026 @ Comfort Suites Virginia Beach

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

Tolling of the Boats for March

USS Perch SS-176

USS Grampus SS-207

USS H-1 SS-28

USS Triton SS-201

USS Kete SS-369

USS F-4 SS-23

USS Tullibee SS-284

USS Trigger SS-237

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

Rock 50/50 – Beverly Galles winner Mike Hutchins \$ 132 base \$ 98

Booze Raffle– Beverly Galles winner Joe Demnicki base \$ 123

Honor and remember book raffle winner Brian Daugherty

Next Meeting - Base Commander, Gary Galles

Our next Regular Base meeting will be April 18, 2026 11:15

We will keep you posted if events change.

Meeting Adjourned ____12:37____.