

USS Flying Fish SSN 673 Hall of Fame Boat 2026

21 February 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 64 Guests present 9

Regular Base Meeting Minutes for 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 Past USSVI National Commander Wayne Standerfer departed on Eternal patrol 01/30/2026 Wayne Served as USSVI National Commander 2018-2022
- 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.

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

Byron Pianalto 1st Vice Commander American Legion Post 327

Rick Severinghaus Naval Submarine League

Any new members - Please stand and be recognized.

New Base Members: Dwayne smith Minneapolis/ st paul

Joe Sheedy Ben Franklin

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

Art Nelson

Harley Dockens

Paul Hanes

Bill & Lisa Rearick

John Fenter

Mike York

Eric and Tamara Kellgren

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
- 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
- Please be cautious with emails there have been some reports of phishing/malware emails coming from Craig Werner a Member who is on eternal patrol do not open the email or click on the links in it

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 298 Base Members as of today.
- Badges Gary Merryman 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

We will once again participate in the Norfolk St Patrick's Day parade March 14th 2026

We will muster 0800 at Ocean View Elementary on W Government Ave in Norfolk

Our starting position #39, section 1 on E. Westmont Ave

Submarine 126th Birthday Ball has been Scheduled for Friday April 17th a dedicated event email will be sent out when more details and registration/ticket information is confirmed

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

Storekeepers Report - Base Storekeeper John Fenter

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. If my roster is up to date we have 15 members that qualified in 1976. I will be contacting those members in February to obtain biographies and to determine if they will be able to attend. Attendees will receive their Holland Club, hat, national certificate, base Commanders certificate, their Holland Club patch, ID Card and challenge coin. Those who do not attend will receive everything except their hat in the mail.

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 1/20/26 at 10:00 hrs There was 3 Base Members and 1 associate member. We saw 2 patients, one was a repeat
- The Next visit will Take place on 02/24/26 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 in July ticket sales will begin at next month’s meeting

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 will not be present today Tony will report

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

We are working with the SLF XO lcdr Arnold and MMNC Radican to Coordinate the Event

VADM Robert Gaucher is the Tentative Key Note Speaker he is planning on it but has to settle into his New Assignment and rule out any scheduling conflicts.

Tony Ficca is collecting memorabilia for the shadow box.

Today's Program

Guest Speaker Sue Anthony from Quilts of Valor <https://www.qovf.org/>

Bud Warren will be receiving a Quilt of Honor for his years of dedicated service



OLD Business:

Adam Kingsley his heading up a review and update of our base bylaws and will discuss and outline the upcoming process including an open comment period for general membership to input their concerns and comments over the next 60 days at which time the bylaw committee will make the updates and submit the final version for adoption by base membership vote

New Business:

Good of the Order:

Veterans Transportation is a service that will help transport veterans to from medical appointments non emergency travel. There are flyers and Cards available at our meetings

Comsubforce Change of Command took place yesterday 2/20/26 We wish VADM Gaucher Thanks for his years at the helm and support him in his new role leading Submarine construction. We Welcome VADM Seif as the new Commander of Submarine Forces and have invited him to join our group.

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

Gary will be taking part in the Sublant Sailor of the year

Dave Johnston reported on Dorado project , Navy is looking into ensuring the crew gets awarded purple hearts

Information on the Dorado project will be on the Hampton Roads Show

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

Tolling of the Boats for February

USS Barbel SS-316

USS Shark 1 SS-174

USS Amberjack SS-219

USS Grayback SS-208

USS Trout SS-202

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

Rock 50/50 – Beverly Galles winner Rebecca Kingsley \$ 132 base \$ 107

Booze Raffle– Beverly Galles winner Mike Hutchins base \$ 125

Next Meeting - Base Commander, Gary Galles

Our next Regular Base meeting will be March 21, 2026 11:15

We will keep you posted if events change.

Meeting Adjourned _____12:48_____.

Submitted by
Anthony Ficca Base Secretary

Approved by
Gary Galles Base Commander