



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

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 Guests present

Regular Base Meeting Minutes for October 18, 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
 - 09/28/2025 MMCS(SS) James Maurice McDonald
 - 10/08/2025 MMCM(SS) Harold S. Weston, Jr.
- The invocation was made by Bill Herron 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.

Welcome any Visitors.

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

Kevin Michaels Groton Base

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

Byron Pinaldo 1st Vice Commander American Legion Post 327

Rick Severinghaus US Submarine League

John Fenter American Legion Riders Post

Any new members - Please stand and be recognized.

New Base Members:

MMC(SS) Nick Bottis, sponsored by Gary Galles qual 1973 Kamahamah

FTCS(SS) Michael Hutchings, American Legion Post #327 Member (Walk-In) qual 1964 Ethan Allen

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
- John Fenter
- Scott Wells

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 to pass out and recruit new members

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

- See attached dues table & financial reports located on tables at the meeting .
- We are into dues collection renewal time of year
- 2026 Sponsorship drive will begin in November

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley

- We have 290 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

New USSVI National Scholarship program has been added info avail at the National Website

Winner awarded at August meeting new application process will be updated on the base website

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

Upcoming events:

250th US Navy Birthday Ball tonight at the Hilton Main Norfolk

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall Virginia Beach November 8th and 9th 0800-2000 daily inside the convention center exhibit hall

Volunteers are needed to help host visitors to the traveling wall

50th Anniversary Viet Nam/Veterans Day Parade November 11th

There will be a guest speaker Virgil Hart from the Virginia Beach Veterans Council covering this year's Veteran's Day events

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

Bodacious Bazaar Volunteers needed Nov 7-9 at Hampton Convention Center 8a-5pm

Please sign up for time slots

Newsletter Committee: – Newsletter Editor, Anthony Ficca

Nothing to report at this time

Holland Club Committee - Chairman, Bill Heron

SCORPION Memorial Committee – Chairman, Bill Heron

Website and social media – Base Webmaster, Sam Stevens

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

This is the month for nominating boats as candidates for the Hall of Fame 2026

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

Met with patients on 9/25 next visit Tues 10/21

Hampton Roads (ERF) Committee – Chairman, Jack Ritz No requests to report. Jack is attending the Honor Flight program in DC Today

Event Coordinator – Beverly Galles

- The holiday party in December tickets are currently on sale Must Call Sandcastle hotel to make room reservations
- Friday pot luck snacks
- Saturday Army Navy Game . Saturday night dinner santa swap 20\$ gifts

USSVI 2028 Convention Committee - Chairman, Dave Duffie'

- We Have been awarded the National USSVI Convention for 2028
 - Meeting after this weeks base meeting

OLD Business:

New Business: HOF Boat Nominations

USS Louisville SSN 724 Michael Jabolie

USS Flying Fish SSN 673 Tony Ficca

Good of the Order:

Brian Daugherty will discuss base officer nomination and election procedures

Chaired by Immediate past base commander

Soliciting nominations to be placed in consideration in November Meeting to be voted on in the December meeting

Visit Pigboats.com for information on how to donate to the Dorado Project to help search for the USS Dorado

Dorado built by EB

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

USS Seawolf SS-197

USS S-44 SS-155

USS Wahoo SS-238

USS Dorado SS-248

USS Escolar SS-294

USS Shark II SS-314

USS Dartar SS-227

USS Tang SS-306

USS O-5 SS-66

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

Rock 50/50 – Beverly Galles	winner	John Baldwin	\$ 121	base \$ 91
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Booze Raffle– Beverly Galles	winner	Brian Krammes		base \$ 83
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Next Meeting - Base Commander, Gary Galles

Our next Regular Base meeting will be November 15th, 2025 11:15

We will keep you posted if events change.

Meeting Adjourned ____ 12:31 ____.

Submitted by

Anthony Ficca Base Secretary

Approved by

Gary Galles Base Commander