



HAMPTON ROADS BASE



== CURRENTS ==

Website Address: <https://www.HRB-USSVI.org>

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USSVIHRB/>

01 November 2023

Issue No: 2023-11

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."

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1

- Base Commander's Message.

Page 2

- Base Leadership's Notes

Page 4

- The CoB's Corner
- Editor's Note
- Committee Reports

Page 7

- Boats Lost in November
- Member Birthdays

Page 8

- Base contact information



Statement from the Base Commander

Brothers and Sisters of the Phinn,

Things are starting to get busy. Gary Merryman is soliciting help for the Bodacious Bazaar being held Friday 10 November through Sunday 12 November. Call Gary or Lynn Merryman for the sign up list. This is another opportunity for us to get our name out there.

I would like everyone to consider coming to the Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, the 11th of November. There are always a lot of people who love to see our float.

I would like everyone to come to Ted's Celebration of Life

on Friday, the 17th of November. Ted has devoted a lot to the base, it would mean a lot to the family to repay the support that Ted has done for us. The time is from 1500 to 1800. The specific times of the events are still in progress. I will send out a email when they are all firmed up. The Celebration of Life will be held at the American Legion, 205 Lesner Ave., Norfolk, Va. Please wear black dress slacks, a white dress shirt with a tie or bolo, and your vest with the funeral ribbon. Military honors will be performed.

Then comes our next meeting. We will have the presentations for the 3 nominated boats for the Hall of Fame. The 3 boats are USS L. Mendell Rivers, USS Guardfish, and USS Tiru. The vote for selection into the Hall of Fame will be held at the December meeting.



There is still time to throw your hat in for the elections. Nominations will be received at the November meeting. Please make sure if you nominate someone, let them know prior to the meeting. We don't want to blindsides anyone. You can also nominate yourself. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

I also want to let you know, not all positions are elected ones. We also have appointed positions. The one that is vacant at this time is the Base Storekeeper. It would be nice to someone else involved. Another position would be the new Charitable Foundation Ambassador. They will be the information bridge from the USSVI Charitable Foundation and us.

The Christmas party is on the final planning stage. Buy your raffle tickets and the banquet tickets. If you win the raffle, you will be reimbursed for the party tickets. Banquet tickets have to be purchased by the the 24th of November. See or call Beverly Galles for any information concerning the Christmas party. The tickets have to be in by this date so the caterer can plan accordingly. Hotel reservations have to be made by the 17th of November. After the 17th the blocks come off and if we don't have the required 30 room nights we will have to pay for the banquet hall.

There will be a Humana Veteran's Health Fair held at VFW 393 on the 18th of November at 1300. Here is

the opportunity for you to get information on health benefits available for veterans. VFW 392 is located at 2408 Bowland Pkwy (off London Bridge), Virginia Beach, Va.

We had some new members go to Kaps4Kids. The next meeting will be Tuesday following the meeting. This event is always so rewarding for the patients as well as the visitors.

Another rewarding event coming up, is feeding Thanksgiving dinner to the patients from the VA hospital. This is held at Club 60 on Thanksgiving Day. Club 60 puts this event on every year. If you want to volunteer, please see Gary or Beverly Galles. The veterans are bussed in from the hospital and enjoy a home cooked meal while watching football.

Gary B. Galles

Your Base Commander,
MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles,
U.S.N. (Ret.)
BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com

Congratulations to our New Base Commander

Gary was sworn in as the new base commander on Saturday 10/21/2023 by our immediate past base commander Brian



.....
.....

From the Base Senior Vice Commander



Brothers and Sisters of the Phinn,

As we come to the end of the year this is the time we push for dues. We are the second largest base in the country, behind Groton. This is due to all of your hard work looking for other submarine veterans to share camaraderie with. I want to thank all of you for all the hard work in maintaining our level of membership. Make life easy, pay dues early so Sid isn't forced to put you on the dinq list. Recruitment is also essential. Continue spreading the word. All veterans are welcomed, not just the old ones. It would be nice to get more active duty members involved. Remember, any active duty members get the second year free with the first year paid (one time only).

If you think you are due a longevity pin, let me know at the end of the meeting, so I can present it to you at the next meeting.

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

Senior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com

.....

From the Base Junior Vice Commander



ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Junior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com
or **tk593@AOL.com**

.....

From the Base Secretary



What a summer now it is November, my honey and I RV'd through Scotland in August with our daughter for her fortieth birthday , the roads were narrow, the countryside was beautifully green and the campgrounds were exceptionally clean. September flew in and flew out, October seemed very busy as well not only do honey and I volunteer with the Subvets we also have the awesome opportunity to volunteer with the M&M outfits with the company I work for (Trunk or Treat) event, and be at the Va Beach convention center taking care of our military

families for a safe Halloween Trick or treat event Too. Volunteering with other companies to help get ready for the Holidays through my work, Early November looks busy as well as we start off from the 10th to the 12th Of November volunteering at the Bodacious Bazaar. Once the volunteering starts it seems to go to infinity and beyond. Have a great Thanksgiving. Talk again soon.

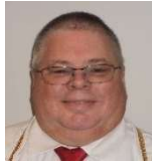
Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

Lynn Merryman

Secretary.HRBBase@gMail.com

.....

From the Base Treasurer



As I stated last few months, Annual Dues are coming due again and you need to have your dues paid by 12/31/23 for the 2024 membership year. Annual dues for National & HRB are as follows: 1 Yr - \$45.00, 3 Yrs - \$127.50, 5-Yrs - \$210.00. I will start sending out dues notices so I can help you get renewed on time.

If you prefer to pay dues by Credit Card just send me an email to **treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com** and I can send you an invoice for the Sponsorship using our Clover credit card pay app or just see me at the next Base Meeting. Also you can mail dues to: USSVI - Hampton Roads Base, c/o The UPS Store, 1215 N. Military Hwy., Box #813, Norfolk, VA 23502

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

ET1(SS) John (Sid) Sidlovsky

Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gMail.com

or **SidofVA@gMail.com**

.....

From the Base Chaplain



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).



IC1(SS) Art Nelson

Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com
or ArtWorkWood@yahoo.com

.....
From the Base Storekeeper

The Base Leadership is looking for a volunteer to step up and take up the duties of Base Storekeeper. Please consider offering your skills and time to volunteer to fill this position. Please reach out to a member of the leadership team

.....
The CoB's Corner

The Norfolk Sail project is still chugging along. Still working with getting approvals from various committees within the city. But you can help we have coins for \$20.00 and a go find me page to donate. All proceeds go to setting up projects within the project. If you would like more information please contact me at gary@norfolksubmemorial.com. Remember we are a 501c group and will provide receipts for any donation.



Still trying to get information about having a cookout on base. Unless they answer soon it might be next year since the weather is changing. We are still looking for volunteers to support our **Bodacious Bazaar event in November.**

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
Gary2361@yahoo.com

.....
From the Editor

I personally have had a rough October having lost a beloved Pet Dog Gunner, its amazing how much of hole in our family was made with the loss of our fur baby, I am sure many of you can relate. I have found a new pet thanks to the wonderful program I was able to take part in that was found online the



program is Petsforpatriots.org it is a program that connects veterans with pet shelters and provides opportunities to adopt shelter pets and provide support to the vet who would benefit from having a pet companion.

MS2(SS) Tony Ficca U.S.N.

Any questions or contribution to the newsletter should be sent to the following email address

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

.....
Membership

Membership drive is a 365-day job. Please review the current roster and send any changes to our secretary, secretary.hrbase@gmail.com.

Membership dues are coming upon us. Dues are due by the end of December. Please do not wait to the last minute. We currently have 282 members.

War Veterans: 249

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

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

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or

.....
Ways & Means


As always, we're on the lookout for ideas for Base fundraising opportunities. You can present them to the Base leadership or contact me directly at any time.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com

or tk593@aol.com



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."*

We are a fraternal organization of Submarine Veterans.
We are open to and welcome any and all who have qualified to wear dolphins.
Contact us by email at USSVI.HRB.Secretary@gmail.com with any questions
and come visit our website at <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org>

Join us for our monthly meeting at 11:15 hours, the 3rd Saturday of every month
(except March). We meet at FRA #60 in Ocean View, 9801 1st View Street,
Norfolk, VA 23503-1603 (the corner of 1st View St. & Bakview Ave. and across
'A' View Ave. from the Post Office).

We look forward to meeting you at a meeting.

.....

.....

[About The Base Website and Social Media](#)

The web address for the Base website is:

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

Note that the ‘members only’ area is currently being revised for new content. New Base members (or previous Base members who now wish to gain access to the ‘members only’ area) should take the following steps for access:”

1. Click on “Login” at the top right of the website pages.
2. Once selected look for blue lettering and
3. Select Sign up to create your account.

Note:

When entering your email address during account creation, please enter the same email address you used when joining the Hampton Roads Base. (If your email address has changed, please contact the Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman, to update your email in the Base roster BEFORE applying for or creating your account.)

Also of Note: The USSVI National website, while still under construction in some areas, is now open. You should have received a member-specific email recently detailing how to gain and maintain access to the site. Check your email for this important information from USSVI National.

The Website may be found at:

HRB Currents, November 2023



<https://www.ussvi.org/>

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

STS1(SS) Sam Stevens, U.S.N. (Ret.)

HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

.....

[Message from Immediate Past Base Commander](#)

Shipmates and Esteemed Associates,

Every two years, on the odd numbered years, Hampton Roads Base holds elections to select new leadership, or renew existing leadership. As the most recent past Base Commander still active in HRB, I am the chair of the Nominating Committee. From the Base bylaws: The Nominating Committee shall be an annual committee and shall meet as required to make recommendations to the Base for the filling of elected offices either at the time of regular elections or

when a vacancy of an elected office develops. The Committee shall be chaired by the Immediate Past Base Commander (or most recent Base Commander who is still active in the Base) and members shall be all Past Base Commanders who remain active in regular Base activities. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall include: (1) Soliciting eligible candidates for Base offices; (2) Reporting the slate of candidates at the Regular Base Meeting preceding the meeting at which officers will be elected; (3) Assist the Base Commander in conducting the election of Base Officers.

At the October base meeting, I will be formally soliciting nominations for elected Base Officers. The positions available for election are: Base Commander, Senior Vice Base Commander, Junior Vice Base Commander, Base Secretary, and Base Treasurer. The duties and responsibilities of these offices are listed in the base bylaws, which can be found on our website by navigating to: <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/base->

[operations](#) and clicking on By-Laws in the right-hand column. While you are at it, I recommend reviewing the duties and responsibilities of all appointed positions as well.

Now is the time for you to get involved in Base Leadership! You don't have to be an elected officer to be involved. You can express your interest to any current member of base leadership, myself included. There are many appointed positions, committees and volunteer positions that can use your help. Those positions are a great way to get involved at the ground floor and work your way up the ranks. Associate members are eligible for elected positions, and Associate members are eligible to vote in base elections.

Currently our Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander have volunteered for nomination to fleet up to Base Commander and Senior Vice Commander respectively. The current Base Secretary and Base Treasurer have agreed to accept nomination to remain in office for another term. That leaves the Junior Vice Base Commander open to new nominations, but keep in mind that ALL POSITIONS are open to nominees.

We will formally accept nominations at the October meeting. Nominees will be presented to the Base for consideration at the November meeting, with voting to take place at the December meeting. Current practice is that voting is held in-person at the December meeting only. There are no provisions for electronic voting or proxy voting, so if you want to vote, be at the meeting!

If you have any questions, give me a call or email me. My contact information is in the back of the newsletter.

Respectfully,

Brian A. Daugherty, MMC(SS/SW) (Ret.)

Immediate Past Base Commander

[Holland Club News](#)

If you will be celebrating the 50th or more years of being qualified in submarines and have not yet been inducted into the Holland Club please reach out to Bill so we can gather information for our springtime ceremony

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

.....

.....

[Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Submarine Brothers, Submarine Sisters, and other associated members of Submarine Veterans Hampton Roads Base, the Base Emergency Relief Fund was created to help base members in need without having to wait for the next base meeting. This will also, allow the member in need to discreetly reach out to one of the following members: Craig Dudley on my Cell (757-618-5624), EM2(SS) Paul Schmidt (Cell: 757-481-1297), or HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669), or contact our Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman (Cell: 757-354-7259). Then the members can talk about the issue privately and vote to approve or reject and once approved reach out to the Base Treasurer to get the funds released.

There is a designated ERF donation container at each of our meetings. All funds donated are kept separate from other Base Funds.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).



MM1(SS) Craig S. Dudley
ERF.HRB@gmail.com or
CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com

.....

The USS SCORPION Memorial



The Base Leadership Thanks John Donaldson for his many contributions to HRB and his years of heading up the Scorpion Memorial Services. Bill Heron has volunteered to take over this important position as our base supports submarine heritage and memorials John will be working on the transition with Bill in the coming weeks

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net



Boats Lost in the Month of November

USS CORVINA (SS-226)

Lost on November 16, 1943, with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. CORVINA

was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

USS SCULPIN (SS-191)

Lost on November 19, 1943, with the loss of 63 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, SCULPIN continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled SCULPIN. 41 men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the SCULPIN down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)

Lost on November 7, 1944, with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, ALBACORE was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

USS GROWLER (SS-215)

Lost on November 8, 1944, with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, GROWLER was on her 12th war patrol and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or was the victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

USS SCAMP (SS-277)

Lost on November 9, 1944, with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges.



HRB Members with November Birthdays

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

- 05: Tom Amann
- 06: Tom Bergen
- 07: Mike Jakubiszen
- 07: Lowell Lewis
- 11: Doug Gaynor
- 11: Bob Spencer
- 13: Bert Hoyt
- 13: Bob Marquez
- 15: Jim Simpson
- 16: Frank Decker
- 16: Frank Dunn
- 16: Al Konetzni
- 18: Randy Kingsbury
- 19: Roy Larsen
- 19: Scott Seddon
- 21: Byrd Saville
- 22: Harlie Dockens
- 24: Ruddy Summers
- 26: Ron Boddy

Party Information

Hi Everyone,

Please get your tickets for the party as soon as possible. Party is Dec 8th and 9th. Tickets are only \$25 each. I'd like to give our caterers a close count after our November meeting. We have until the 24th of Nov for our actual head count. Please book your rooms as soon as possible. Sandcastle Resort VB only \$99 plus taxes a night. You can book from the 7th to the 11th at this room rate. We need 30 room nights so we don't have to pay a fee for the banquet hall. We are at 14 room nights at this time.

Call Sandcastle at 757-428-2828.

Thank you,

Beverly Galles



Hall of Fame Boat

Per our Bylaws, we will accept nominations of submarines for induction into the 2024 Submarine Hall of Fame Ceremony at our October meeting. Nominations will be closed after the October meeting.

Discussions and presentations for HOF nominees will be held during the November Hampton Roads Base meeting with voting occurring at the December meeting. You must be present to vote at the December meeting.

We look forward to another great event in May 2024 and we look forward to receiving your nominations at the October meeting. If you have any questions, reach out to Dick Helm or Ken Swan.

Ken Swan
413-923-4030
Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

2024 HALL OF FAME BOAT

Nominations ~~21 OCT 2023~~ **Completed**

Presentations **16 NOV 2023**

Selection **16 DEC 2023**

The Boats nominated are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HULL NO.</u>	<u>NOMINATED</u>
BY:		
L. MENDEL RIVERS	SSN 686	Ron O'Donnell
GUARDFISH	SSN 612	Richard Severinghaus
TIRU	SS 416	Neal Chaves

Base Officers & Key Personnel

(Remember: you must dial all 10 digits when contacting by phone)

Base Commander & Membership Committee Chair & Scholarship Committee Chair:

Gary Galles
757-714-2733

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com

Base Junior Vice Commander & Ways and Means Committee Chair & Events Committee Chair:

Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com

or tk593@AOL.com

Base Secretary & Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chair:

Lynn Merryman
757-354-7259

Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com

Base Treasurer:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com

or SidofVA@gmail.com

Base CoB:

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-968-6708

Gary2361@yahoo.com

Base Chaplain:

Art Nelson
804-920-6820

Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com

or ArtWorkWood@yahoo.com

Base Storekeeper:

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator & Webmaster:

Sam Stevens
757-814-7976

SStvns7@gmail.com or

HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

Holland Club Chairman:

William (Bill) Heron
757-886-0913

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

Base Historian:

Paul R. Schmidt
757-572-2711

TheBakerPaul@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tony Ficca

757-646-1152

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

Submarine Memorial &

Hall of Fame Committee Chair

Ken Swan

413-923-4030

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Coordinator:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

SidofVA@gmail.com

Base Emergency Relief Chair:

Craig Dudley
757- 618-5624

ERF.HRB@gmail.com or

CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com

SCORPION Memorial Committee Chair

William (Bill) Heron
757-886-0913

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

NORFOLK Sail Committee Chair

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-274-9322

Gary2361@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chair:

Brian Daugherty (Immediate Past Base Commander)

757-409-8560

BDaugherty7@Verizon.net

Hampton Roads Base Snail Mail Address:

US Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Hampton Roads Base

1215 N Military Hwy, Box 813

Norfolk, VA 23502-2228



KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Info

Our visit last month on Thursday 10/26/23 was a busy one. We saw (4) Female and (2) Male patients ranging in ages from 5 days old to 34 Years old. Our next KAP(SS)4KID(SS) visit is scheduled back on our normal Tuesday 11/21/23. We will wait until next year to schedule another Thursday visit as we did last month.

If you are interested in helping with these visits, please reach out to me. As a reminder, all donations for this program is only used to support HRB KAP(SS)4KID(SS) program.



Base Sponsorship program

Consider sponsoring for 2024, if you were a 2023 Base Sponsor you will get a 10% discount on and renewal at the same or higher levels. Congratulations to Chuck Steenburgh for being our first 2024 Base Sponsor, as he did (2) 41 for Freedom Sponsorships.

Sponsor Level	Benefits	Donation	2023 Sponsors
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 and Scholarship Fund	\$500	Busila, Ron Krammas, Brian Miles, Terry Swain, Ken Vorce, Ted & Fran
VIRGINIA Class Sponsor	2 Christmas Party Tickets 2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$300	Hastey, Brandon (Duke)
SEAWOLF Class Sponsor	1 Christmas Party Ticket 2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$200	
OHIO Class Sponsor	2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$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 and Scholarship Fund	\$125	
STURGEON Class Sponsor	3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$100	Daugherty, Brian Holt, Bobby O'Donnell, Ron Nelson, Art Sidlovsky, John Warren, Bud
41 for FREEDOM Sponsor	1 Raffle Ticket at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$75	
NAUTILUS Era Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$50	
DIESEL BOATS FOREVER Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$25	Demnicki, Joe Destefone, Glen Siebel, Harry

