



# HAMPTON ROADS BASE

## ≈ CURRENTS ≈



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

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

**01 September 2023**

Issue No: 2023-09

***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**



From the Commander,

Just back from the National Convention in Tucson and it was a great even! The Welcome Aboard party was one of the best I have seen in a long time! I attended the National Commander's meeting and a new position named the United States Submarine Veterans (USSV) Charitable Foundation, Ambassador Program is being implemented. This position is a Base Officer/Executive Board Member whose primary duties are to serve as the liaison between the USSVI Base and the Charitable Foundation. The USSV Charitable Foundation Ambassador (referred to as the "CF Ambassador") shall be the recognized conduit between the 165 USSVI bases and the USSV Charitable Foundation. Please reach out to me if you have an interest or would like additional information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and also for cooler weather – Arizona was hot! YNCM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce, USN,RET

**[BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com)** or **[TVorce@Verizon.net](mailto:TVorce@Verizon.net)**

### Hampton Roads Base Newsletter **"Currents"**

Published monthly and distributed on or about the 10th of the month. All submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, Tony Ficca, by email: **[Newsletter.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.HRB@gmail.com)** NLT the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the month.

Hampton Roads Base meetings are held at 11:15 hours, on the third Saturday of every month (except March) located at

Club 60  
9601 1<sup>st</sup> View Street, Ocean View,  
Norfolk, VA



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**From the Base Senior Vice  
Commander**

Brothers and sisters of the phin,



I would like to thank all of those who came out to the picnic. I thought it turned out exceptional. It was catered by Send It Catering, who did a wonderful job. This caterer is the same caterer that catered the Christmas Party. I also would like to thank those who came to the pre-picnic cleanup. Great job by all. The picnic was attended by 70 members and guests and the weather was outstanding. Of course the success of the picnic is the direct efforts of our picnic coordinator, Beverly, good job!

I sent a proposal up the chain of command, to bring it to the attention at the National Convention for associate members to have the ability to become lifetime members. It did not get a lot of motion. It's not over yet. There is still discussion that it will interfere with the count of wartime veterans for USSVI to be a non-profit organization, being able to accept tax deductible donations. Our next event that we need to get ready for is a couple of parades. Elections are coming up! I urge all of you to consider taking a role in leadership. Please don't wait to be asked, let it be known that you want to run for a position in leadership. We can always have more than just a slate.

MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles, U.S.N. (Ret.)  
[Senior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com](mailto:Senior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com) or  
[GaryGalles@HotMail.com](mailto:GaryGalles@HotMail.com)

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**From the Base Junior Vice  
Commander**



ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)  
[Junior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com](mailto:Junior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com)  
or [tk593@AOL.com](mailto:tk593@AOL.com)

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**From the Base Secretary**

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

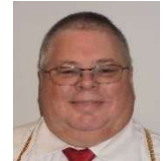


Lynn Merryman  
[Secretary.HRBase@gMail.com](mailto:Secretary.HRBase@gMail.com)

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**From the Base Treasurer**

I'm honored to report that at the past 2023 National Convention that was just held in Tuscan, AZ, I was appointed by the USSVI Board of Directors as the incoming National Treasurer (NT) to immediately relieve NT Paul Hiser for his remaining 2023-2024 term for health reasons. Paul will continue assist me as the NT Advisor as I learn the ropes of this position. It has been a while since I have been DINQ with Qualls 😊. Please be advised, that I intend to continue to support HRB and to run for HRB Treasurer for at least 1 more 2-Year Term. I intend to formally run for NT at next years Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH



Taking the Oath of Office for National Treasurer at the Annual Business Meeting held on 9/2/23 with the incoming USSVI District Commanders

Annual Dues will be 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

If you prefer to pay dues by Credit Card just send me an email to [treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gMail.com)  
or [SidofVA@gMail.com](mailto:SidofVA@gMail.com)

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**News about the Base Chaplain**

On behalf of all our Commanders they would like to inform everyone, Art Nelson is at the Community Living Center at the Va Hospital in Hampton, Virginia. He will be there for several weeks recuperating from a medical procedure . He is up and about and will welcome visitors. He is in building 146 in Room 112. His spirits are up and very positive, looking forward to recovering fully. If you can please stop by and visit as the days can seem long waiting for the full recuperation process.



Respectfully,  
Lynn Merryman  
Base Secretary

Hampton Roads Base, USSVI  
[secretary.hrbase@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hrbase@gmail.com)  
757-354-7259

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

IC1(SS) Art Nelson  
[Chaplain.HRBbase@gMail.com](mailto:Chaplain.HRBbase@gMail.com)  
or [ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com](mailto:ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com)

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**From the Base Storekeeper**

Greetings from your Storekeeper,



Just back from the National Convention in Tucson, Arizona and we had a great time. I attended the National Storekeepers meeting and information was presented on the budget and shipping expenses associated with orders. The weather was hot but we  
HRB Currents, September 2023

all endured and had a great time. The 2024 calendars are ready for order and I should be having those for sale at the monthly meetings. If you do not attend the meetings you can order one from National and he will ship directly to your home. Looking forward to cooler weather. Have a Blessed Day!

YNCS(SW/AW) Fran Vorce, USN, Ret.

[USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gMail.com](mailto:USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gMail.com)  
or [francesvorce@gmail.com](mailto:francesvorce@gmail.com).

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**The CoB's Corner**

looking for Volunteers to work Pier arrival Burger Burns. Hope to have a schedule soon.



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

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)  
[Gary2361@Yahoo.com](mailto:Gary2361@Yahoo.com)

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**From the Editor**

Looking forward to Fall my favorite season of the year. You gotta just love the cooler air and being able to turn off the AC and open the windows. I was happy to hear about the adventures of our shipmates at the National Convention in Tucson. Thanks out to Fran for sending me updates to Share.



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](mailto:Newsletter.hrb@gMail.com)

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**Membership**

Membership drive is a 365-day job. Membership renewals should be done before the end of the year. It makes Sid and Lynn's job easier. Please renew your dues now and consider life membership, then you never have to worry about it again. Thank you.

- # Members: 279
- # with E-mail: 261
- # Owe National Dues: 58
- # Owe Base Dues: 72







- # Regular Annual: 74
- # USSVI Life Members: 183
- # Base Life Members: 172
- # Holland Club: 129
- # Reg Associate: 10
- # Life Associate: 2
- # Charter Members: 0
- # Senior Members: 0
- # 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](mailto:Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com) or  
[GaryGalles@HotMail.com](mailto:GaryGalles@HotMail.com)

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**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](mailto:Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com)  
 or [tk593@AOL.com](mailto:tk593@AOL.com)

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**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:

<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](mailto:HRB.USSVI@gmail.com)


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**Base Picnic News**

We would like to thank you for attending the picnic this year! What a great time had by all!! The food and fellowship was awesome!!

We had 70 in attendance.

Send It Catering did an amazing job!!!!

If you have any questions please contact Beverly Galles at 252-562-3534 or [bgalles9@yahoo.com](mailto:bgalles9@yahoo.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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month (except March). We meet at FRA #60 in Ocean View, 9801 1<sup>st</sup> View Street, Norfolk, VA 23503-1603 (the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> View St. & Balview Ave. and across 'A' View Ave. from the Post Office).

**We look forward to meeting you at a meeting.**





**Holland Club News**

Congratulations to Past Base Commander Bob the Cob Saenz on his induction into the Holland Club at the National USSVI Convention in Tucson last week.

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



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](mailto:ERF.HRB@gmail.com) or  
[CraigD.HRBbase@gmail.com](mailto:CraigD.HRBbase@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](mailto:Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net)

[John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net](mailto:John.Donaldson@Earthlink.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





### **Boats Lost in the Month of September**

#### **USS S-5 (SS-110)**

Lost on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920, when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

#### **USS S-51 (SS-162)**

Lost on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1925, with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS CITY OF ROME off Block Island.

#### **USS GRAYLING (SS-209)**

Lost on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1943, with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. GRAYLING was on her 8<sup>th</sup> war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

#### **USS POMPANO (SS-181)**

POMPANO was sunk between September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1943, with the loss of 77 men while on her 7<sup>th</sup> war patrol. Possibly lost on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by an air & depth charge attack off of the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya-Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after September 25<sup>th</sup>. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on September 25<sup>th</sup>, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before October 5<sup>th</sup>, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

#### **USS CISCO (SS-290)**

Lost on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943, on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao.

*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.***

### **HRB Members with September Birthdays**

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

- 03: Art Picart
- 03: Doug Simon
- 04: Paul Benton
- 04: Ray Casella
- 04: Paul Worthington
- 05: Domenick Missaggia
- 08: John Baldwin
- 08: Ed Hynes
- 08: Bob McClaren
- 09: Terry Miles
- 10: Tom Hanlon
- 12: Matt Beckman
- 12: Tim Palmer
- 15: Paul Hanson
- 16: Bill Heron
- 16: Tommy Pollock
- 17: Paul Lucas
- 17: Scott Luers
- 22: Bruce Cohen
- 22: Joe Hanisko
- 22: Ken Swan
- 27: Beverly Galles
- 27: Ike Spears
- 28: Richard Fox
- 28: Stephen Jiran
- 29: Bob Rodriguez
- 30: Brian Sharp
- 30: Ted Vorce





## **Base Officers & Key Personnel**

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

### **Base Commander:**

Ted Vorce  
757-376-2458

[BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com)  
or [TVorce@Verizon.net](mailto:TVorce@Verizon.net)

### **Base Senior Vice Commander & Membership Committee Chair & Scholarship Committee Chair:**

Gary Galles  
757-714-2733

[Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com) or  
[GaryGalles@HotMail.com](mailto:GaryGalles@HotMail.com)

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

Adam Kingsley  
757-535-4179

[Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com)  
or [tk593@AOL.com](mailto:tk593@AOL.com)

### **Base Secretary &**

### **Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chair:**

Lynn Merryman  
757-354-7259

[Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com)

### **Base Treasurer:**

John (Sid) Sidlovsky  
757-328-9796

[Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com)  
or [SidofVA@gmail.com](mailto:SidofVA@gmail.com)

### **Base CoB:**

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

[Gary2361@Yahoo.com](mailto:Gary2361@Yahoo.com)

### **Base Chaplain:**

Art Nelson  
804-920-6820

[Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com](mailto:Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com)  
or [ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com](mailto:ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com)

### **Base Storekeeper:**

Fran Vorce  
757-376-2459

[USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com)

### **Social Media Coordinator & Webmaster:**

Sam Stevens  
757-814-7976

[SStvns7@gmail.com](mailto:SStvns7@gmail.com) or  
[HRB.USSVI@gmail.com](mailto:HRB.USSVI@gmail.com)

### **Holland Club Chairman:**

William (Bill) Heron  
757-886-0913

[Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net](mailto:Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net)

### **Base Historian:**

Paul R. Schmidt  
757-572-2711

[TheBakerPaul@gmail.com](mailto:TheBakerPaul@gmail.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Tony Ficca  
757-646-1152

[Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com)

### **Submarine Memorial &**

### **Hall of Fame Committee Chair**

Ken Swan  
413-923-4030

[Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com](mailto:Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com)

### **Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Coordinator:**

John (Sid) Sidlovsky  
757-328-9796

[SidofVA@gmail.com](mailto:SidofVA@gmail.com)

### **Base Emergency Relief Chair:**

Craig Dudley  
757- 618-5624

[ERF.HRB@gmail.com](mailto:ERF.HRB@gmail.com) or  
[CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com](mailto:CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com)

### **SCORPION Memorial Committee Chair**

John Donaldson  
757-270-0205

[John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net](mailto:John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net)

### **NORFOLK Sail Committee Chair**

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

[Gary2361@Yahoo.com](mailto:Gary2361@Yahoo.com)

### **Nominating Committee Chair:**

Brian Daugherty (Immediate Past Base Commander)  
757-409-8560

[BDaugherty7@Verizon.net](mailto: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) Input:*

We had two great KAP(SS)4KID(SS) NMCP visits this past July & August.



July 18<sup>th</sup> Visit – We had a High School Volunteer that we made a Honorary Submariner for her community service.





Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> Visit.

Bravo Zulu to you all that support these visits. We are currently the only organization that visits the Portsmouth Naval Hospital Pediatric Oncology Ward every month.

Our next KAP(SS)4KID(SS) visit is scheduled for Tue 9/29/23 10:00AM. And I'm giving advanced notice that Oct visit will be scheduled on Fri 10/26/23 (Instead of the normal Tue after our Base Meeting) as I have several requests to hold on a different day to accommodate shipmates that just can't make the normal Tue. visits.

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.

### *National USSVI Convention Tucson Arizona*

Some photos from the convention and our Hampton Roads Shipmates who participated.



## USS Atlanta Shipmates Reunite

