



HAMPTON ROADS BASE



≈ CURRENTS ≈

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

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

01 January 2024

Issue No: 2024-01

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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Statement from the Base Commander

Happy New Year to all of you. We have entered a new year as last year happened way too fast.

We ended last year with our wonderful Christmas Party. We tried a couple of new things to keep it interesting. We had our toast with champagne, a really interesting and nice cake. The caterers did an excellent job with the food, service, and DJ music. The dance floor was well used.

In our December meeting the Hall of Fame competition ended with a tie. The only logical decision was

to have the USS L Mendell Rivers and USS Guardfish duke it out again at this coming meeting. I will not vote, unless there is a tie, then I will be the tiebreaker. Congratulations to our leadership for the next 2 years, who will be sworn in during the January meeting:

Gary Galles ___Base Commander

Adam Kingsley _____Sr Vice
Commander

Ron O'Donnell ___Junior Vice
Commander

Lynn Merryman _____Secretary

John 'Sid' Sidlovsky ___Treasurer



I have the greatest desire for us to spread the wealth, for all the duties we have. We are all in this wonderful organization together. Please volunteer to help. It pains me to see the same people stepping up all the time.

The 2024 Sponsorship program opened up for this year. Please contact Ken Swan for details.

It would not be proper for me not to mention that any unpaid dues are delinquent. Please pay them before you are purged from the roster. It would be easier to consider life membership.

As always, my door and phone are opened for you. If you need me, contact me. I will consider any input you would like to present to me or the executive board.

Looking forward to a great year of service to you,

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

The Bodacious Bazaar Crew

Big Thank you shout out to Gary Merryman for setting up the base's chance to get some exposure to the community of Hampton Roads and try and recruit new membership by getting out information about our Base



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From the Base Junior Vice Commander



ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com
or tk593@aol.com

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From the Base Secretary



Hello all, First I want to thank all who volunteered for the Bodacious Bazaar. It was a great event and we succeeded in getting the Subvets noticed and I can say there were mostly wives and daughters who were very interested in the club for their husbands and dads. Great Job all. I want to say from my Honey and I have the Happiest of New Years.

Lynn Merryman
Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com

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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

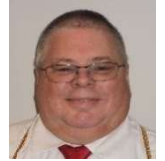
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From the Base Chaplain



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

IC1(SS) Art Nelson

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



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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

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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.

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

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

From the Editor



My Humble apologies to you for not publishing a newsletter in December , I had a personal pc catastrophe and lost my laptop’s functionality . I cannot really complain as I had that laptop for over 8 years so I guess I got my mileage out of it. I was able to recover all of my files so there is that to be grateful for and I appreciate your understanding. I wish everyone an enjoyable and blessed New Year. I encourage and welcome all input from membership for the newsletter and comments on what you would like to see more of in coming issues.

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.hrbbase@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, 9601 1st View Street, Norfolk, VA 23503-1603 (the corner of 1st View St. & Balview 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:

<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

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[Holland Club News](#)

Our 2024 Holland Club Induction Ceremony is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 20th.

Our shipmates that qualified in 1974 include:

LCDR Kevin Adams who qualified on USS John Marshall (SSBN 611)

ET1 (SS) Raymond Casella who qualified on USS George Marshall (SSBN 654)

Captain Peter Flannery who qualified on USS James Madison (SSBN 627)

ETCS (SS) Thomas Hanlon who qualified on USS Sea Devil (SSN 644)

TMCS (SS) Gary Harris who qualified on USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN 600)

If you believe you are qualified for induction in the Holland Club and have not been inducted, please contact me at bill.heron1@verizon.net.

Additionally, if any current Holland Club members would like a replacement Holland Club Membership Card in color please contact me at the above email address.



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

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

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[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: HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669), EM2(SS) Paul Schmidt (Cell: 757-481-1297), 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).

HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669),
ERF.HRB@gmail.com or
CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com

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The USS SCORPION Memorial



The annual Scorpion Memorial is currently scheduled for Sunday, May 26th.

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

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net



We remember....



Boats Lost in January

USS S-36 (SS 141): Lost on January 20, 1942, with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.

USS S-26 (SS 131): Lost on January 24, 1942, with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO, and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

USS ARGONAUT (SS 166): Lost on January 10, 1943, with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Japanese destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth-charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gunfire.



USS SCORPION (SS 278): Lost on January 5, 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

USS SWORDFISH (SS 193): Lost on January 12, 1945, with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.

Welcome to our Newest Members



Will Layne USS George Bancroft



Bill Sauer USS Sam Houston



Jayson Faulkner USS Hampton

HRB Members with January Birthdays

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

- 3rd Earl Densten
- Stephen Shultz
- Michael Lamy
- 8th, Richard Corey
- Carl Bourne
- David Hinkle
- 10th, Ronald Hyson
- 11th, James Gazard
- 12th, Alford Crowder
- 14th, Robert Phillips
- 18th, Albert Budd
- 19th, Ruben Holstrom
- 20th, Anthony Franzitta
- 21st, Mary Heron
- 23rd, Harry Biela
- Brian Krammes
- 24th, Lanty Thompson
- 26th, Robert Frye
- 27th, James Beauchamp
- 28th, Dennis Olson
- Robert Tobin
- Brian O'Neill
- 29th, Alan Stubbe
- 30th, David Yoh
- Glen Little
- Curtis Thompson

Party Information

Hi Everyone,

As always from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone for any and all help and support that you have given to me for the Christmas party.

We had an amazing party. Tolling of the boats was outstanding. We had a champagne toast in remembrance of Ted Vorce. The food was

spectacular. We had a special cake (see pictures) that looked and tasted great. Lots of dancing to our DJ's music. We had 46 in attendance.

I'm looking for volunteers for this year's party. Please contact me at 252-562-3534,

or email bgalles9@yahoo.com or see me at the meeting. I would like to get together with volunteers as soon as possible please.

V/R

Party Girl

Hall of Fame Boat

As Stated earlier in the Notes from our Base commander our December HOF Boat vote ended in a tie between Guardfish and L. Mendel Rivers. We will be having a new vote at this months meeting to determine this year's entrance into the Hall of Fame.

Ken Swan

413-923-4030

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

2024 HALL OF FAME BOAT

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

Presentations **16 NOV 2023 completed**

Selection **16 DEC 2023 ended in a tie**

Second voting session **20 January 2024**

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



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



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



VICE ADM. ROBERT M. GAUCHER

COMMANDER, NAVAL SUBMARINE FORCES/COMMANDER, SUBMARINE
FORCE, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET/ COMMANDER, ALLIED SUBMARINE
COMMAND



Vice Adm. Gaucher is a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He is a 1991 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering. He also holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the University of Central Florida.

Gaucher's operational assignments include service in both fast attack and ballistic missile submarines including service as division officer, USS Flying Fish (SSN 673), navigator/operations officer, USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723), executive officer, USS Maryland (SSBN 738) (BLUE), commanding officer, USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705), and Commodore, Submarine Development Squadron 5.



During these tours he completed three strategic deterrent patrols as well as deployments to the Pacific, Arctic, Caribbean, North Atlantic, and Mediterranean.

Staff assignments include instructor duty at Naval Nuclear Power School; flag aide for the Commander Submarine Forces; Maritime Operations branch head at U.S. Pacific Command; director, Operational Support Branch, Chief of Naval Operations staff; chief of staff, Commander Submarine Force Atlantic.

During his command tour, USS City of Corpus Christi completed two Western Pacific mission cycles, and a homeport change to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii while earning two Meritorious Unit Commendations and the Submarine Squadron 15 Battle Efficiency 'E'. While serving in major command of Development Squadron Five he was responsible for the Seawolf-class submarines, Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Squadron 1, and several special project ocean engineering and research and development detachments. DEVRON 5 earned the Navy Unit Commendation during his tour.

Gaucher's flag tours include director, Maritime Headquarters (N03), U.S. Pacific Fleet, Commander, Submarine Group 9/Task Group 114.3 where he commanded Pacific ballistic and guided missile submarines, and director, Strategic Integration (N2N6T) on the Navy staff. Most recently he was assigned as a Special Assistant at U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Gaucher assumed his current duties in December 2023 as commander, Submarine Forces. He is the undersea domain lead and is responsible for the submarine force's strategic vision. As commander, Submarine Force Atlantic, he commands all Atlantic-based U.S. submarines, their crews, and supporting shore activities. These responsibilities also include duties as commander, Task Force (CTF) 114, CTF 88, and CTF 46. As commander, Allied Submarine Command, he is the principal undersea warfare advisor to all North Atlantic Treaty Organization strategic commanders.

Gaucher has earned various personal and unit awards and is particularly honored to be recognized as an Honorary Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) Specialist.



Holiday party pictures 2023



Holiday party prize winner pictures 2023

