



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



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

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

01 February 2023

Issue No: 2023-02

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



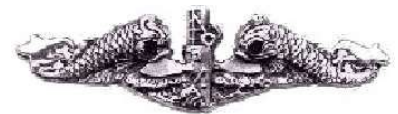
Greetings from the Commander,

We kicked off the year with a great meeting and we celebrated the 25th birthday of the USSVI standing up the Hampton Roads Base Chapter. There were three original members in attendance for the cake cutting celebration. I received an email from South East Region USSVI asking who would want to participate in a convention for 2023 in Gulfport, Mississippi. Currently, the proposed convention would take place 3 – 6 April. Location is looking like a casino hotel in that area. We are putting out feelers on how many might attend. Please let me know if you are interested and I will pass the information up the chain.

Weather here remains cold so layer up and come on out to the next meeting. Keep a green board!

Respectfully,
YNCM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce,
UNS, Ret

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com or 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 NLT the 1st weekend of the month.

Hampton Roads Base meetings are held at 11:15 hours, on the third Saturday of every month (except March) at FRA #60 located at 9601 1st View Street, Ocean View, Norfolk, VA



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**From the Base Senior Vice
Commander**

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
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
or tk593@AOL.com



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From the Base Secretary

I have a small Sea story. When we went on a dependents cruise with my honey on the Baton Rouge, WOW what a day we had. I promised I would not ever give specifics but you know that first adrenal rush when you surface a certain way well that was an amazing experience for me. and it opened my eyes to



many hurdles you guys faced. Our youngest had the best time as she hung out with the Captain watching the dolphins go by.

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

Lynn Merryman
Secretary.HRBase@gMail.com

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From the Base Treasurer

2022 1st through 3rd Quarter financial audit was completed by Harry Siebel with no discrepancies found and some recommendations for the Executive Board to consider at our next meeting on 10-December-2022, during our Holiday Party weekend. Bravo Zulu to Harry for his hard work and diligence in performing this audit for the Base.



Out of the 279 current base members we have 58 who will owe National and 72 who will owe HRB dues for the 2023 calendar year. Single-year dues are \$25 (National) + \$17.50 (HRB) for a total of \$37.50. There is a table of all the dues options later in

this newsletter for members that are not already one of 183 Life Members.

I will be sending out dues renewal email letters to all members that are due for renewal in 2023. If you prefer to pay dues by Credit Card, just send me an email and I can send you an invoice for the dues 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

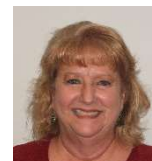
Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

IC1(SS) Art Nelson
Chaplain.HRBase@gMail.com
or ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com



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From the Base Storekeeper

From the Storekeeper:



Looking forward to 2023 and selling more inventory for the Chapter. Every meeting we have various items for sale and also a section that people have donated to and we ask for a small donation for those items. In addition, I am selling clothing items for Jenny aka "sewing winch" and we have shirts, hats, and bags with the Submarine logo on them. Come on out to a meeting a take a look! I have an order into National for items that individuals would like.

Looking forward to seeing everyone. Blessings to all!

Respectfully,

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

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gMail.com
or francesvorce@gmail.com



The CoB's Corner

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



MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)

Gary2361@Yahoo.com

From the Editor

Greetings all, I am still growing into my roll as the Editor of this newsletter. I know that it will take me a couple of months to get into the groove. I strongly encourage input from all who would like to provide insights on what you would like to see in the monthly newsletter.



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. 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 or

GaryGalles@HotMail.com

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



Public Relations and Publicity

The Base will be purchasing a feather flag for identifying our group at events. Once we purchase the flag, we will mount it outside the FRA Hall when we have meetings. We hope this proves to be a positive recruitment for our group.

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

Lynn Merryman

Secretary.HRBase@gmail.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.

HRB Scholarship Program



I would like to thank Sid and Rick 'Doc' Perez for continuing on this year as scholarship committee members. We had our first meeting to go over the new scholarship application for the coming 2023-2024 Scholarship year. The new applications should be out around the first of the year. Filing deadline will be 2400 hours, 31 March. Let's make plans to have our eligible children and grandchildren apply for this scholarship. Thank you.

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
GaryGalles@HotMail.com

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[Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame](#)

Congratulations to our winner of HOF Boat

USS ATLANTA (SSN 712), in commissioned service from 1982 to 1999, and was nominated by Bill Heron.

Follow for more information as the induction ceremony is in planning for May 2023

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

CAPT Ken Swan, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.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

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[Holland Club News](#)

Gentlemen,

I am hopeful you all will be able to join us at our 15 April meeting for this year's Holland Club Induction ceremony. According to the roster I have the following members qualified in 1973:

William Hazzard qualified on USS George Bancroft (SSBN 643)

Robert Rogers qualified on USS George Marshall (SSBN 654)

Bob Saenz qualified on USS George Bancroft (SSBN 643)

Pat Urello Qualified on USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 641)

Craig Werner qualified on USS Pargo (SSN 650)

Bob Saenz has requested to receive his induction at the National Convention in Tucson in August, but I'm hopeful the rest will be available for our April 15th meeting.



Also, I still have Holland Club packages for the following members that did not attend any of last year's inductions:

Bradley Matters qualified in 1970 on USS Spadefish (SSN 668)

William Ralston qualified in 1970 on USS Salmon (SSR 573)

Oscar Hudson qualified in 1972 on USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN 644)

Anthony Walker qualified in 1972 on USS Scamp (SSN 588)

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

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

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

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The Norfolk Sail Project

Working on a logo for our project. Details to follow.

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

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

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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: 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).

Thank you to all that came out and supported the December Base Meeting. I hope you are excited to add the USS Atlanta to the Submarine Hall of Fame in May 2023.

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

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The USS SCORPION Memorial

The 55th Memorial will be held at 1400 hours, Sunday, 21-May-2023 at the SCORPION Memorial, located at the Virginia War Memorial Museum, Huntington Park, Newport News, Virginia.

At the virtual meeting conducted on 16-October the family members participating decided that a hotel in Hampton or Newport News be selected to host the attendees at the 55th Memorial with a dinner the night before. Local HRB members may be requested to volunteer to assist in the planning for the dinner and also provide transportation from the hotel to the Memorial service. There will be another virtual meeting at 1830 hours, 15-February-2023 (the date SCORPION departed on her final mission) to firm up plans. The link to the February virtual meeting will be promulgated in the January issue of Currents.

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

CWO4 John Donaldson, U.S.N. (Ret.)
John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net

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HRB Members with February Birthdays

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

- 01: John Springett
- 03: Gary Merryman
- 04 Larry Mason
- 05: Fred Lowack, & Eugene Johnson
- 08: Mike McNamara
- 09: Mike Chagnon, & Tommy Moore
- 12: Bernard Pattison
- 19: Adolfo Villarial
- 20: Tim Richard
- 21: Gene DeStefano, & Ron O'Donnell
- 23: John Elliott, & Roger Gard
- 27: Bob Rockefeller

We remember....



Boats Lost in February

USS Shark (SS 174): Lost on Feb 11, 1942, with the loss of 59 officers and men on her first war patrol. Shark was the first US Submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

USS Amberjack (SS 219): Lost on Feb 16, 1943, with the loss of 72 officers and men on her third war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser.

USS Grayback (SS 208): Lost on Feb 27, 1944, with the loss of 80 officers and men on her tenth war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this war patrol, she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.

USS Trout (SS 202): Lost on Feb 29, 1944, with the loss of 79 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.

USS Barbel (SS-316): Lost on Feb 4, 1945, with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.

Welcome New Member



We welcome newest base member Gary Hensen
Gary Qualified on the USS Sea Devil SSN 667 in 1970



[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
or TVorce@Verizon.net

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

Gary Galles
757-714-2733

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or
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
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:

Fran Vorce
757-376-2459

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator & Webmaster:

Sam Stevens
757-814-7976

SStvns7@gmail.com or
HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

HRB Currents, February 2023

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

John Donaldson
757-270-0205

John.Donaldson@Earthlink.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



United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI)

Hampton Roads Base

2023 Annual Base Sponsorship Program

Sponsor Level	Benefits	Donation
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	\$500*
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	\$300*
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	\$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	\$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	\$125*
STURGEON Class Sponsor	3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$100*
41 for FREEDOM Sponsor	1 Raffle Ticket at Each Monthly Base Meeting** Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$75*
NAUTILUS Era Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$50*
DIESEL BOATS FOREVER Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations	\$25*

As an added incentive, starting in 2023, if you renew your sponsorship at the same level or higher you will receive a 10% discount.

****Must attend the meeting to collect raffle tickets, all tickets are for the same raffle, your choice. *Donations are NOT tax-deductible.**



Happy Birthday Hampton roads Base



At our January meeting we celebrated the founding of the Hampton Roads Base of USSVI. We celebrated the event with a birthday cake, that was cut by three of the founding members of the base. Bud Warren, Dick Helm, and Richard Crockford, and current Base Commander Ted Vorce (pictures courtesy of Neil Chaves)

