



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



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

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

01 February 2022

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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



The year has started off great and we had a good turnout at our first meeting of the year! We continue to have at least one new member at about every meeting. We were honored to present Ed Kracker his 76-year Submarine Qualification Certificate. Ed is a WWII Veteran, it was my honor to present this noteworthy accomplishment award. Also, the new Base Officers were sworn in, and I am excited to let everyone know you have me for another two years. Thank you for your continued support. We are still tracking on the possibility of putting our name in the hat for the 2024 National Convention. We need volunteers to step up and commit to the project. I am pleased to announce that we have our first ever female Base Officer, Secretary Lynn Merryman. She has stepped up to the plate and we look forward to working not

only with her but our entire board as we navigate through 2022. If you have any recommendations or suggestions to improve our Base, please reach out to any Officer and share your thoughts. United we Sail! Keep a Green Board!

YNMCM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce,
U.S.N. (Ret.)

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From the Base Senior Vice Commander



As we started this year with the swearing-in of our new officers, I want to thank those who have stepped up, Lynn Merryman as Base Secretary and John Sidlovsky as Base Treasurer. Since coming back from Covid, we have come back with our base sponsorship program. If interested contact Sid. We have different levels for the program, these levels can be seen below and at hrb-ussvi.org.

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

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**From the Base Junior Vice
Commander**

The Hampton Roads Council of Veteran Organizations is not having meetings currently, but I am in contact with them and keeping a lookout for any information that may be of interest to our membership. I will keep you all informed.

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



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From the Base Secretary

Hello from the Secretary. At this time, I am learning the ropes and will be sending out the roster for everyone's review and updates.

Lynn Merryman



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From the New Base Treasurer

I'm in the process of getting a thorough turnover from the outgoing Base Treasurer, Brian Daughtry. It is a tedious but very important position and I'm confident that will serve in the best interests of the Base and my shipmates to maintain fiscal responsibility and accountability. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes of this position, as it has been a very long time since I felt dink as a non-qual.

ET1(SS) John(Sid) Sidlovsky



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From the Base Storekeeper

Thank you to everyone who comes to the meetings and supports the Base Store. At the meetings, there are two tables set up, one that has items for sale and the other for people to donate items and we ask for a donation. If you have any old books, patches, covers, belts, etc., which are laying around, bring them out and donate them, please. Also, if you are looking for a certain patch, I have a current book from the National Storekeeper that you can look through and I can place an order. Currently, in stock, I am selling some polo shirts, jackets, and face masks for Jenny our sewing wench. We have ball caps with gold or silver dolphins along with various other items for sale. If you have a particular shirt that you currently own and want a patch or a set of dolphins on it – bring the shirt to me and I will coordinate with Jenny when she is at the meeting.

Blessings to all. XOXO.

YNCS(AW/SW) Fran Vorce, U.S.N. (Ret.)



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The CoB's Corner

If any members still need assistance with either increasing their VA disabilities benefits or need to initially apply, I will be available at our February 19th meeting, to assist in starting your claim while you gather your medical information. We can then sit down to submit the claim to the VA to change your status. Alternatively, you can meet with Fran Vorce, and she can explain the procedure she is using to increase her disability. More to follow.

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman

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From the Base Chaplain

My job as Base Chaplain is to be an encouragement to all the Brotherhood of the Phin.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or where shall I flee from thy presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.
If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea:
Even there, shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.
Psalms 139:7-10 (KJV)

God loves each and every one of us and wants the best for us. When we choose to acknowledge Him, we can walk in His blessings.

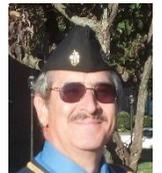
IC1(SS) Art Nelson

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From the Editor

It is my intention to use the newsletter as a means of reaching out to all of our members, those who attend our monthly meetings, and those who don't for whatever reason. I want to engage all in the activities and projects of HRB. We have roughly ~20% of our members attending our monthly meetings, I want to find reasons for the remaining ~80% to join us at the meetings and to get involved in all the other things we do. I want to see you at our meetings and events. Bring a friend, too. If you have anything to share, you can email it to me at grumpyoldsquid@gmail.com preferably by the 22nd of the month.

~ **Stay Safe & Stay Well** ~

EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)



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Membership

I have been informed by a couple of people that they haven't always felt welcomed. Please, if you see someone whom you don't know, introduce yourself, say hi, and strike up a conversation.

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

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Ways & Means

Our sponsorship program is in effect to assist with base fundraising and we're always looking for any new fundraising ideas you may have. You can contact me or bring it up with any of the Base Leadership Team at the next meeting.

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

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Public Relations and Publicity

As I said at the meeting and will repeat at every meeting, we want to get our name out in front of the public, and the best way to do that on an everyday basis is to have things visible that identify us. Are you wearing your HRB ballcap? How about a USSVI windbreaker? Do you have a SubVets dolphins decal on your car? What about one of our HRB round decals? These all help to let people know we are here, and it will help with recruiting as well.

Lynn Merryman

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Upcoming Events

The 2022 Submarine Birthday Ball is in the preliminary planning stages and this year the Dolphin Scholarship Fund Silver and Gold auction will be held in conjunction with the ball.

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

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Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame

October 2021 saw the nomination of several great HoF Candidates with excellent presentations and discussions at the November meeting. We are happy to report that in very close voting, the USS H.G. Rickover (SSN 709) was the HoF winner for 2022. We look forward to having the WW-II Memorial Service at a date to be selected in May 2022 to coincide with the HoF induction of the USS Rickover. This ceremony will be held at SLF Norfolk. Sysco and L-3 Harris have sponsored a picnic afterward in the past and we plan on another picnic this year as well. Stay tuned for the approved ceremony date and then mark your calendars. For those really thinking ahead, 2023 HoF nominations will be held at our Base

meeting in October. Check out the HRB Facebook page for past HoF winners.

CAPT Ken Swan, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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About The Base Website and Social Media

We've seen an uptick (+67%) in activity at the website (plus 2 new requests for access) some due to the HoF Boat selection announcement.

New to the website: I've added a new Banner (ticker) to the Home Page (the one at the top announces our next meeting date). The new one, at bottom of the page, highlights new items on the Website. I've added a new page to the site. The 2022 HRB Sponsorship Program and the page awards accolades to those participating in the program (it is my hope this will incentivize others to participate). There is a Tab on the left that will jump the visitor to the Sponsorship page – where a sponsorship Level information button is provided.

Let me know if you have any ideas for new stuff on the Base Website.

STS1(SS) Sam Stevens

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The Norfolk Sail Project

Attached to this newsletter are two options for the Sail Park in Norfolk. The committee will meet in February to start the process for the city of Norfolk to receive our drawings and location to get approved. More to follow. Also, we are set up for donations if you desire to help with funding. Please see any committee member for details. See the pictorial below.

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman

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The USS SCORPION Memorial

Some background: She was Commissioned on 29 July 1960, she was homeported in New London until 1961 when she moved to Norfolk. She went into overhaul in 1967 at Norfolk Naval Shipyard but received only 'emergency' repairs to get quickly back on duty. Scheduled to receive SUBSAFE, this was postponed in response to Cold War pressures.

Hampton Roads Base SubVets approved a resolution and change to our Bylaws to support future Scorpion Memorials. Last year, due to COVID-19, a virtual memorial was conducted, and a virtual memorial is planned for this year as well, on May 22nd.



Plans are being discussed for an in-person memorial for the 55th Memorial in 2023.

CWO4 John Donaldson, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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KAP(SS)4KID(SS) News



As I reported last month, I'm so pleased that our KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Team was the first group outreach program that was allowed to resume our monthly visits to NMC-P Building 2, Ward 4B serving Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.

Our second monthly visit was held at 10:00 hours, Wednesday, 19 January 2022. We had three Base Members who attended, and we visited three boys, aged 18 months, 7 years, and 9 years, and one girl, aged 10 years. A Base K4K Team Member made our normal presentation of the Honorary Submariner Certificate, coloring book & crayons, ballcap, and the plushy USSVI KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Elephant to the parent to hand to their child. One boy got a Diving Submarine toy that was previously donated to the team.

Our next visit will be back to our normal Tuesday after our monthly Base Meeting. It is scheduled for 10:00 hours, Tuesday, 22 February 2022, and we will meet at 09:30 hours in the building 3, 2nd-floor food court with the Subway in it. If you are interested in participating, you just need to be in good health and be fully COVID-19 vaccinated. COVID-19 Booster is not required, this requirement is on the honor system as you do not need to show a COVID-19 vaccination card. Please call or text me at 757-328-9796 if you are planning to attend.

ET1(SS) John "Sid" Sidlovsky, KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Co-Chairman



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Emergency Relief Fund

In this time of National Emergency due to COVID-19, many Brothers of the Phin may find themselves (or the small business that they own) being economically impacted through no fault of their own. If you have a current financial support need, please reach out to me on my Cell (757-328-9796), or to ERF Committee Members EM2(SS) Paul Schmidt (Cell: 757-481-1297), MM1(SS) Craig Dudley (Cell: 757-961-8541) as this is the reason that the USSVI-HRB Emergency Relief Fund was put in place.

Since I am now the Base Treasurer, I'm automatically on the ERF Committee as I handle all the Base funds. Because of this, we need a new ERF Chairman and another member to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please reach out to the Base Commander.

ET1(SS) John "Sid" Sidlovsky, outgoing, ERF Chairman

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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 Villaral
- 20: Tim Richard
- 21: Gene DeStefano, & Ron O'Donnell
- 23: John Elliott, & Roger Gard
- 27: Bob Rockefeller



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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.

*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.

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Base Officers & Key Personnel

Base Commander:

Ted Vorce
757-376-2458
tvorce@verizon.net

Base Senior Vice Commander:

Gary Galles
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Base Junior Vice Commander:

Adam Kingsley
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Base Secretary:

Lynn Merryman
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Base Treasurer:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
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Base COB:

Gary Merryman
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Base Storekeeper:

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Base Chaplain:

Art Nelson
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Events Coordinator:

Adam Kingsley
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Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Coordinator:

Rich Corey
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Base Historian:

Paul Schmidt
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pschmidt@PBP-attorneys.com

Social Media Coordinator, Webmaster:

Sam Stevens

Batter Up!

Excerpted, with permission of the authors, from Sub Tales: Stories That Seldom Surface (p. 38). Charles Hood & Frank Hood.

Batter up! The most powerful baseball hitters (at the North Pole).

On a cold but sunny day in the summer of 1960, perhaps the most unusual baseball game ever played took place.

The USS Seadragon (SSN-584) was the fourth and final member of the historic Skate class of nuclear submarines.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when her skipper, CDR George P. Steele, reported in loud and clear upon surfacing at Santa’s home base: “The temperature at the surface on the North Pole is 28° Fahrenheit. The weather is fine, and the sky is clear.” The local time was close to midnight.

Two teams of nine players each were chosen to participate—officers and CPOs versus enlisted crew. There were so many ways to dissect the geographic implications of the playing field! All lines of longitude converge at the North Pole, including the prime meridian (0°) and the International Date Line (180° east or west). “If a lucky batter on either side hit a home run, he could circumnavigate the world and pass through 24 time zones as he circled the bases on the way to home plate. In comments to the press, Steele also implied, tongue-in-cheek, that some of the most powerful baseball hitters were among his crew, since “up here, you can hit a softball from one side of the world to the other.”

One of the softballs used for the game at the North Pole was carefully saved and dried out on the trip back to Hawaii. It was later presented to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI) Hampton Roads Base Annual Base Sponsors for 2022

Brian Daugherty - - - - - Sturgeon Level
Joe Demnicki - - - - - -DBF Level

Bud Warren - - - - - Sturgeon Level
Craig Werner - - - - - Sturgeon Level

Thank you for your support



United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI)

Hampton Roads Base

2022 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 Ticket 2 Summer Picnic Ticket 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 Ticket 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 Ticket 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.**





NORFOLK SAIL
 NORFOLK, VA
 SUBMARINE MEMORIAL
PROPOSED MONUMENT
FOOTPRINT
 01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL
 NORFOLK, VA
 SUBMARINE MEMORIAL
OPTION 1
 01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL
 NORFOLK, VA
 SUBMARINE MEMORIAL
OPTION 1
 01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL
 NORFOLK, VA
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NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 1

01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 2

01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 1

01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 2

01/07/2022





NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 2

01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 2

01/07/2022



NORFOLK SAIL

NORFOLK, VA
SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

OPTION 2

01/07/2022

