



# HAMPTON ROADS BASE

## ≈ CURRENTS ≈



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

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

01 May 2023

Issue No: 2023-05

***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



I was not able to attend the Submarine Ball this year; however, our Senior Vice, Gary Galles and his lovely wife, Beverly attended and represented the Hampton Roads Base. I hear a great time was had by all. Looking forward to a good turnout for the WWII and Hall of Fame Ceremony on 25 May. USS ATLANTA (SSN-712) is being inducted into the Hall of Fame and we have a large group that has stated they will attend. If you have any ideas for fund raisers please reach out to our Leadership. The National Convention is right around the corner. It is being held in Tucson, Arizona and there is still plenty of

rooms available. Fran and I will be attending and looking forward to seeing shipmates and swapping sea stories. Keep a green board!

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) at FRA #60 located at 9601 1<sup>st</sup> View Street, Ocean View, Norfolk, VA



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**From the Base Senior Vice  
 Commander**

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)

.....  
**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**

The Kaps for kids Easter Bunny  
 appearing was a hit. Thank you to all  
 who helped the E. Bunny hop along  
 with all his goodies.



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

Lynn Merryman

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

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**From the Base Treasurer**

As has been previously report National raised the  
 USSVI dues effective 4/1/2023. HRB dues are  
 always 1/2 of National. The following is the updated  
 dues table for your reference:

If you would like to make any payments  
 (Donations, Base Sponsorships, Dues,  
 etc.) to the base dues by Credit Card, please just send  
 me an email to [treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com) and I  
 can send you an invoice our Clover credit card pay  
 app or just see me at the next Base Meeting. Also you  
 can mail checks to: USSVI - Hampton Roads Base,  
 C/O The UPS Store, 1215 N. Military Hwy., Box  
 #813, Norfolk, VA 23502



HRB Currents, May 2023



Annual & Multi-Year Dues Table		
Effective 01-APR-2023		
USSVI National Dues	1 Year	\$ 30.00
	3 Years	\$ 85.00
	5 Years	\$ 140.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	1 Year	\$ 15.00
	3 Years	\$ 42.50
	5 Years	\$ 70.00
National & HRB Dues	1 Year	\$ 45.00
	3 Years	\$ 127.50
	5 Years	\$ 210.00

Lifetime Dues Table		
Effective 01-APR-2023		
Based on your age at time Lifetime dues are paid (2-3 month grace period)		
USSVI National Dues	76+ Years	\$ 120.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 240.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 360.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 500.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 600.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	76+ Years	\$ 60.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 120.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 180.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 250.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 300.00
National & HRB Dues	76+ Years	\$ 180.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 360.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 540.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 750.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 900.00

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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**From the Base Chaplain**

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**

From the Storekeeper:

Hello everyone and I hope this finds  
 you well. Finally some warmer  
 weather here in Virginia. If you are physically at  
 the meeting I have some sun visors and summer  
 shirts for sale with our Submarine logo on them. If  
 you are not in the local area, or not able to attend the  
 monthly meeting, you can reach out to our one and  
 only "sewing wench," Jenny Dugan; she can assist  
 you with your vest and other items. Jenny can be



reached at: [www.SUBVEST.com](http://www.SUBVEST.com), or call at 757-318-0138, for custom made Submarine Clothing, Patches, Hats and more. Her ad is in the latest American Submariner magazine on page 39. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and remember to bring those Submarine items you no longer want to dust and donate to the Base. One's man's junk is another man's treasure! I hope you stay healthy and happy!

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).

**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)

**From the Editor**

Greetings to all, I am happy that spring temps and warmer weather are now arriving into our area, I had the pleasure of going to the Virginia International Tattoo thanks to Victor Duarte, It was a great show. I also attended the NATO Parade of Nations on Saturday and Had the Pleasure of meeting the NJROTC instructor from one of Granby's High Schools he's a submariner and was invited to join us.



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)



**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)

**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)




**Upcoming Picnic information**

The August meeting will be our picnic. Tickets will be on sale starting at this month's meeting. We will need to give the caterer a head count at the end of our July meeting. The cost of tickets is \$5 each.

We will be having pulled pork, pulled chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. The fixings will be provided.

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 ERA #60 in Ocean View, 9601 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.**



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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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**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.

Please see page 10 for more information

We are looking for Volunteers that can shuttle Atlanta Sailors without base access from the base theater parking lot to Submarine Learning Facility. If you can assist with this needed service please contact Ted Vorce or Bill Heron

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**Holland Club News**

Last Month we inducted Craig Werner into the Holland Club. Craig qualified on USS Pargo (SSN 650) in 1973.





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

***The Norfolk Sail Project***

We will be planning a fund raising raffle soon,  
 Details to follow.

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)

***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.

HRB Currents, May 2023



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

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***The USS SCORPION Memorial***



The 55th USS Scorpion Memorial will be conducted by the Father Michael J. Bader Knights of Columbus Assembly on Sunday, 21 May at the Scorpion Memorial located at the Virginia War Memorial Museum, 9285 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA.

The ceremony will begin at 1400 and will include the presentation of a wreath to be taken to sea on a submarine or placed at the USS Scorpion Memorial in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Virginia Beach. Weather permitting, a picnic after the memorial

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).CWO4 John Donaldson, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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

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***HRB Members with May Birthdays***

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

- 01: Harry Allison
- 03: Mike Kennedy
- 03: Tom Nutter
- 03: Gary Harris

- 04: John Pearl
- 05: Smiley Cochran
- 06: Imants Baltgalvis
- 06: Art Nelson
- 09: John Ritz
- 10: R.O. Bradford
- 10: Gene Lockwood
- 11: Bruce Marshall
- 12: Ed Potts
- 15: Jim Woodward
- 16: Jim Taylor
- 16: Andrew Clark
- 17: Al Friedman
- 21: Sam Stevens
- 23: Bill Schoenberg
- 26: Buggs Moran
- 26: Fran Vorce
- 30: Byron Pianalto

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**We remember....**



**Boats Lost in May**

**USS SQUALUS (SS-192)**

Lost on April 3, 1943, with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

**USS LAGARTO (SS-371)**

Lost on May 3, 1945, with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam, on her 2nd war patrol. She is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill (SS-366) two weeks later.

**USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)**

Lost on May 28, 1958, when she sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to her sinking.

**USS SCORPION (SSN-589)**

Lost on May 22, 1968, while returning to Norfolk, VA from a Mediterranean deployment. She reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores.

Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.

*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.***

**New Member**

Welcome to TMSN(SS) Michael Mitchell Qualified  
USS Helena 4.14.23 welcome to the brotherhood and  
welcome to USSVI-HRD





## **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



## *123<sup>rd</sup> Submarine Force Birthday Ball*

The Hampton Roads Submarine Birthday Ball took place on Friday 04/14/23

There was a great turnout of active duty and submarine veterans to this event held at the Virginia Beach Conference Center. The highlight for many of us Veterans was the cutting of the birthday cake tradition where the longest qualified and the newest qualified join the “Sub Boss” in cutting the cake. The Longest qualified member in Hampton Roads is our own Bud Warren, and the newest qualified pinned that day is our newest member Michael Mitchell.







## *Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame*

In May of each year, members of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc, Hampton Roads Base, gather and conduct a memorial service to remember and honor the Submarine Veterans who served during World War II. The ceremony is opened with a solemn remembrance of our shipmates, officers and enlisted men who sacrificed their lives aboard submarines in the service of our country. This ceremony is known as “the tolling the boats” as a bell is struck once for each submarine lost as the name of that submarine is read aloud.

Each year, the Hampton Roads Base nominates and selects one submarine for induction into what is called the Submarine Hall of Fame. Since 1999, in conjunction with the WWII Memorial service, the USSVI has recognized and honored the specifically chosen post World War II submarine. For a submarine to be considered for the Submarine Hall of Fame, it (the submarine to include the crew at the time of the event) must have contributed to advancements in Undersea Warfare. The Hall of Fame portion of the ceremony recognizes the achievements and distinguished service of the winner and culminates with presentation of a shadowbox of that submarine’s memorabilia to the Commanding Officer of the Submarine Learning Facility, Norfolk. SLF Norfolk then adds the shadow box honoring the current year’s HOF winner to the display of all previous HOF winners. These shadowboxes are located in the SLF Norfolk Auditorium as a reminder for all active duty submariners of the U.S. Submarine’s rich history.

This year marks the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Submarine Hall of Fame with former winners that include the Nautilus, Albacore, George Washington, Parche, and others. For 2023, the USS Atlanta (SSN 712) was selected for induction into the Submarine Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be at 10 am on Thursday the 25th day of May, 2023, located by the SHARK II Memorial which is located in front of Ramage Hall (SLF Norfolk) onboard the Norfolk Naval Base.

Following the ceremony, the Submarine Learning Facility and potentially a U.S. Submarine will be open for unclassified tours. Additionally, all attendees are invited to a picnic at SLF Norfolk which is co-sponsored by SYSCO.

This ceremony supports the USSVI Creed which 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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.”





*Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Memories from years past*



2022 Ceremony Pictures Courtesy of Ken Swan





*Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Memories from years past*



Photos Courtesy of John Donaldson estimated to be from 2007

