



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."*



USS L. MENDEL RIVERS HALL OF FAME BOAT 2024

Base Commander - Gary Galles, Present
Base Senior Vice Commander - Adam Kingsley, Present
Base Junior Vice Commander - Ron O'Donnell, Present
Secretary - Anthony Ficca, Present
Treasurer - John "Sid" Sidlovsky, Present

Regular Base Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2024

The meeting was called to Order by the Base Commander, Gary Galles 11:15 hours and the normal meeting opening sequence was followed:

- A moment of silence for our departed brother and sister submariners was observed. memorial banner draped on the podium for departed shipmate **Charl Richard Wade Davidson RMC(SS) departed on eternal patrol 12/09/2024** and **Leo Larue STSC(SS) departed on eternal patrol 11/26/2024**
- The invocation was made by Chaplain Scott Wells
- The USSVI Creed was read by the Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander, Gary Galles
- The Tolling of the Boats Ceremony was read by Base Junior Vice Commander Ron O'Donnell and the bell was rung by Senior Vice Commander Adam Kingsley
- A round robin of introductions, led by Craig Dudley standing in for Cob Dave Johnston, was then held with all members present identifying themselves with their qualification boats along with introducing any guest they brought to the meeting.
- Two New Members joined today Jacob Lane and Keegan White

Binnacle List – Dick Helm and Niel Chaves . Brian Krammes and Lynn Pattison

Secretary's Report –

- All members are reminded to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in email address, snail mail address, phone number or any other personal statistics maintained by the Base.

Treasurer's Report – Base Treasurer, John "Sid" Sidlovsky

- National & HRB dues will be going up 1/1/25.
- See attached dues table & financial reports.
- [2025 Life Dues installment Program](#)



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New Dues Table based on National Dues increasing 2025

Annual & Multi-Year Dues Table			
National & HRB Dues	Years Renewed	Current Dues	Effective 1/1/25
USSVI National Dues	1 Year	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00
	Oct-Dec & Next Year	\$ 35.00	\$ 47.00
	3 Years	\$ 85.00	\$ 113.00
	5 Years	\$ 140.00	\$ 185.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	1 Year	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00
	Oct-Dec & Next Year	\$ 17.50	\$ 23.50
	3 Years	\$ 42.50	\$ 56.50
	5 Years	\$ 70.00	\$ 92.50
National & HRB Dues	1 Year	\$ 45.00	\$ 60.00
	Oct-Dec & Next Year	\$ 52.50	\$ 70.50
	3 Years	\$ 127.50	\$ 169.50
	5 Years	\$ 210.00	\$ 277.50

Lifetime Dues Table			
Based on your age at time Lifetime dues are paid (2-3 month grace period)			
National & HRB Dues	Age at Payment	Current Dues	Effective 1/1/25
USSVI National Dues	76+ Years	\$ 120.00	\$ 150.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 240.00	\$ 300.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 360.00	\$ 450.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 500.00	\$ 625.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 600.00	\$ 750.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	76+ Years	\$ 60.00	\$ 75.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 120.00	\$ 150.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 180.00	\$ 225.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 250.00	\$ 312.50
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 300.00	\$ 375.00
National & HRB Dues	76+ Years	\$ 180.00	\$ 225.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 360.00	\$ 450.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 540.00	\$ 675.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 750.00	\$ 937.50
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,125.00

Storekeeper's Report – Base Storekeeper Wil Layne

All On-Hand merchandise is available for sale.

- Patches and other merchandise from National can be ordered through the Base Storekeeper.
- All the materials on the Help-Yourself table are at a reasonable donation feel free to contribute to the donations bucket, it helps and is appreciated.
- If you need something specific, please contact the Base Storekeeper.



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Committee Reports:

- **Membership Committee** – Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley
 - As of now we currently have 287 base members
 - anyone on Active Duty that is qualified to wear dolphins may join USSVI with the second year for free with a first-year paid membership
 - if you have any questions feel free to contact any of the officers
 - If you have any suggestions of ways to increase our membership and meeting attendance, please let the Base leadership know of it.
 - Anyone who thinks they are due a USSVI Longevity Pin should see Adam Kingsley .
- **Scholarship Committee** – Base Senior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley
The committee will begin next years application and selection after the start of the new year

Program & Events Committee – Base Junior Vice Commander, Ron O'Donnell

- Welcome Home USS New Mexico 12/20/2024 3 Members attended Gary, Dave J Joe Demniki
- January POW/MIA presentation
- February Submarine MOH Recipient Discussion
- March Estate Planning Presentation and St Patricks day parade
- **Ways and Means Committee** – Base Junior Vice Commander, Ron O'Donnell
Fundraiser to be TBD
 - If you have any questions about the program, you can ask any member of Base leadership.
 - Any suggestions, please contact BJVC Ron O'Donnell.
 - If you have suggestions for any other income streams let Base Leadership know of them.
- **Public Relations and Publicity Committee** – Gary Merryman No Report at this time
- **Newsletter Committee** – Newsletter Editor, Tony Ficca:
 - Will be putting out a year in review edition of the newsletter to include highlights of base activities and events held throughout 2024 if you are an officer or committee Leader please send me your input for this current edition
- **Holland Club Committee**- Bill Heron.
 - We will hold our next Holland Club Induction in April of 2025 will have more information once the base roster is updated with new membership information
- **SCORPION Memorial Committee** – Committee Chairman, Bill Heron
Still working with the Knights of Columbus to continue annual Memorial service in the spring
- **Website and social media** – Base Webmaster, Sam Stevens:
 - Sam reminded membership to check out the website and make sure that the roster has your correct email since this is key to gaining access to the members section of the website
 - Any question please contact the webmaster at hrb.ussvi@gmail.com
- **Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Committee** – Committee Chairman- Ken Swan



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Per our bylaws we had the HOF boat nominations this month 4 boats have been nominated for consideration to be HOF boat for 2025

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625 Nominated by Dave Duffié
USS John Adams SSBN 620 Nominated by Bob McClaren
USS Providence SSN 719 Nominated by Sam Stevens
USS Darter SS 576 Nominated by Dave Johnson

The Hall of Fame Boat was voted on this month and winner is USS Henry Clay SSBN 625 and will be inducted into the Hall Of Fame at Ramage Hall Submarine Learning Facility in May 2025

Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Committee – Committee Chairman, John “Sid” Sidlovsky

last visit November 14th 6 patients visited No visit 12/23 next visit will be 1/21/2025

- **Hampton Roads Base Emergency Relief Fund Committee – Committee Chairman, -Jack Ritz** No Report

If you have a current financial need, contact ERF Committee Members HMCM (SS) Jack Ritz (757 498-1217) EM2 (SS) Paul Schmidt (757-481-1297), John “Sid” Sidlovsky (757-328-9796) as this is the reason that the USSVI-HRB Emergency Relief Fund was put in place. No Report.

- **Holiday Party – Coordinator Beverly Galles**

Thanks to all who attended the holiday party and helped throughout the event and planning. All those that helped by pitching in to setup the room for dinner. Multiple winners of door prizes including the main prize a Whiskey decanter with submarine in it , NAVY BEAT ARMY A good time was had by all who attended.

/Old Business:

- **New Business:**

- 2025 USSVI HRB Budget Presented the budget approved by eboard presented by Sid for base vote to approve nominated by: Dick Helm Seconded By Bill Rearick yeah unanimously approved Nay 0
- Sr Vice Adam discussed interest in attending the 2025 Navy Ball in October since it will be the the US Navy’s 250th Birthday
- Brian Daugherty discussed the need to find new storage location for our base floats since the current location which is graciously donated by his company is in need of freeing up the space
- Gary discussed the potential of relocating our base meeting location to the American legion post off of Tidewater in Norfolk more discussion will be held at our January meeting and additional information will be provided on the base website
- Jim Simpson author book about Scorpion additional supplement published. With pictures of wreckage this added content can be obtained by reaching out to Jim via email jimmyjoesimpson@charter.net



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There is a survey being conducted online for input regarding development and construction in the area surrounding the Veterans Memorial near the Virginia beach convention Center. Attached is the email that our based commander received and has the link to the survey

Sent: Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 8:26 PM
Subject: Tidewater Veterans Memorial Survey
Members,

Recall from last month that Virgil Hart the Chairman, City of Virginia Beach Mayor's Committee for Veterans briefed the HRCVO on the planning commission work regarding development of the area surrounding the Tidewater Veterans Memorial. He provided us with a very impassioned message about the possible impact that the development would have on the Memorial. The danger is real and our concerted effort is needed to keep City officials informed about our concerns. That's where all of you and everyone else you can muster comes in.

Please see the message below from Virgil Hart. I would implore you to take the survey and to spread the word to every member of your VSO. We need a massive outpouring of veterans to voice their opinion about the sanctity of the Tidewater Veterans Memorial. Please get the word out and encourage everyone you know to take the survey too. Thanks.

Dan Doyle
HRCVO President

The link below is a survey to get input in regard to the Central Beach Strategic plan. I took the survey and it took about 20 minutes to complete. You do NOT have to be a resident for Virginia Beach to complete the survey

Please go to the link and take the survey. The survey closes out on 09 Jan 2025.

I would like to see everyone make the following comment:

There needs to be a buffer zone of 100 Feet around the Tidewater Veterans Memorial to preserve the reverence of the memorial and ceremonies. No living or commercial spaces should be allowed in the buffer zone

<https://planning.virginiabeach.gov/comp-plan/strategic-growth-areas/resort/central-beach-small-area-plan-survey>

This will be the last opportunity for the Veterans of the entire area to have an input before the final presentation to City Council in the late February time frame.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

Virgil Hart
Chair, City of Virginia Beach
Mayors Committee for Veterans
(757) 619-0490
vhart@vb.gov



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Good of the Order:

- <https://www.change.org/p/name-a-virginia-class-submarine-after-medal-of-honor-recipient-henry-breault> online petition to get a new submarine named after MOH Recipient Henry Breault
- National office Challenge Coin presentation by John Sid Sidlovsky on behalf of the National USSVI Commander provided coins to honor 5 members of the base to be recognized by national for significant contributions to USSVI
 - Bud Warren
 - Lynn Moran
 - Joe Demnicki
 - Gary Galles
 - Beverly Galles

Sid discussed a new National membership recruitment incentive program

Review of Boats lost in November, Junior Vice Commander Ron O'Donnell

Lost in December

USS F1	SS-20	12/17/1917
USS S-4	SS-109	12/17/1927
USS Sealion	SS-195	12/10/1941
USS Capelin	SS-289	12/1943

- **Review of members' birthdays for the month – Base Commander, Gary Galles**

Rock 50/50 – Beverly Galles. **Rebecca Kingsley** won earning her \$100 and the base earned \$93

Booze Raffle– Beverly Galles. **Wil layne** won a Bottle of Canadian Club as the base earned \$71

Wine Basket Raffle: Beverly Galles was won by **Wil Layne**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 hours by Base Commander, Gary Galles

Our next Regular Base meeting will be at 11:15 hours, Saturday, **18 January 2025** We look forward to seeing you all there

Submitted by

Tony Ficca Base Secretary

Approved by

Gary Galles Base Commander