



# HAMPTON ROADS BASE



## ≈ CURRENTS ≈

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

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[2024 Year End in Review](#) Issue No: 2024-EOYR

***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 Newsletter Editor](#)

As stated at our December Meeting it was decided to have a year-end in review the 2024 edition of our newsletter. I offer this edition to highlight some key events that our base took part in over the past year.

We had a remarkably busy year in 2024 and besides our monthly meetings we had many opportunities to gather as Submariners and enjoy each other's company as well as getting our visibility out to the Hampton Roads Community of which we are a vibrant organization.

I hope you enjoy the memories of our year together and that you will take the opportunities available for us to gather and shine in 2025.

Tony Ficca  
Base Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
[secretary@hrb-ussvi.org](mailto:secretary@hrb-ussvi.org)



Hampton Roads Base Newsletter

### *"Currents"*

Published Quarterly and distributed on or about the second week of the new quarter.

All submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, Tony Ficca, by email: [Secretary@hrb-ussvi.org](mailto:Secretary@hrb-ussvi.org)

NLT the last week of the Quarter

[Statement  
from the  
Base  
Commander](#)



Dear Base Members,

This has been an exciting year. I recommended to Tony that we have an End of the Year Review Newsletter, so we can recap all the things we do for ourselves and outreach for others.

Let us go back to the first meeting of this year. Swearing in of the Officers. This is a commitment to all of you members of the base. We guide the operation; however, we need your input. The USS L. Mendel Rivers (SSN-686) was voted as the Hall of Fame boat for 2024.

As we roll into February, I would like to thank everyone who is or has been a participant in the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program. Our Treasurer, John 'Sid' Sidlovsky has been very passionate about the program. And it shows. All the people who show up month after month to give a lot of joy and a little relief to the kids and their parents from the trials and tribulations of their illnesses. These patients are from the age of newborn through the age of early twenties. Sometimes they have visited even older folks who had to be in pediatrics for one reason or another. Each patient is inducted as an Honorary Submariner.

As we continue our annual journey, we participate in the new year of parades. We take out the submarine float and the personnel carrier to display and advertise our organization. We attend the St. Patty's Day Parade in Oceanview, the Memorial Day Parade in Portsmouth, the Azalea Parade in September in Virginia Beach, and the Veterans Day Parade in Virginia Beach.

Happy Birthday Submarine Force! We gather with all the Submarine Veterans in the Hampton Roads area for the 124<sup>th</sup> annual birthday party. Our Force Commander, VADM Gaucher, joined Hampton Roads Base as a member.

Every April we induct all those base members who have achieved the level of being qualified for 50 years into the Holland Club. They all receive a certificate and a bright yellow cap (so we can find them, if they forget where they are going). Speaking of old fellers, Bud Warren was recognized for his achievement of being qualified for a grand total of 76 years. He was awarded a certificate by the National Commander.

At the last meeting of 2023, we voted for the Hall of Fame boat. Last year we Inducted the L. Mendel Rivers (SSN-686). Every year since 1999, we have inducted the Hall of Fame boat and placed a shadowbox for them in the quarterdeck of the Submarine Learning Facility. The existing shadowbox is then placed in the auditorium. Along with that ceremony, we honor those who departed on eternal patrol on board the USS Shark II, in WWII. We toll each member of the Shark II, at the Shark II Memorial, right in front of the Submarine Learning Facility. This honor is a commitment to the Submarine Veterans of WWII when they disbanded. We also presented a wreath to be taken to sea by the USS New Mexico in honor of all the submarine veterans who lost their lives in WWII.



We have been very active with the active-duty sailors. We wished them Hail and Farewell for them departing on deployments and were there for the Homecoming when they returned from deployments. We were there for the Change of Command for the USS Washington and witnessed the awarding of the Presidential Unit Citation. Other events to take note of are the Dolphin Scholarship fund raising events, sponsored by the Submarine Officer Partners Association (i.e.) brewery events, Oktoberfest Auction, Pub Crawl, etc.). We were at the Khaki Social sponsored by Commander Submarine Squadron-6.

Jack Clayton, the grandson of Peter Flannery, was presented the annual HRB Scholarship at the picnic we have every year. Congratulations Jack! The picnic was enjoyed by all.

Next, we had a great turnout at the National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. A lot of meetings to attend. There were a lot of events to attend. I think the neatest thing was the tour and Tolling of the Boats at the USS Cod (SS-224).

The Veterans Day Celebration was special for the base. I was the Co-Marshall. Beverly and I rode in a Camaro and then ended up at the review stand. We enjoyed the members of the base with the active-duty members of the USS John Warner, USS Arkansas, USS Toledo, and the USS Columbus chanting the submariner chant to the sounds of the klaxon. We continued on for the luncheon where I had to give a speech on the history of Veterans Day.

Our base has constantly improved. We have more programs at our meetings. The Oktoberfest held in house was welcomed and enjoyed by all. Of course, we cannot forget the Christmas Party. Catered by Send-It Catering. Plenty of door prizes, Bill Heron won the submarine decanter. Dancing, food, drink, and a lot of camaraderie. However, we had to listen to the 2 Naval Academy alumni sing for the alma mater after Navy won the army-navy game (Go Navy!!).

In conclusion, in keeping with our creed, I would like to honor the members of the base who have gone on eternal patrol this last year:

<i>Ronan Michael McNamara</i>	<i>January 9, 2024</i>
<i>Lanty E. Thompson</i>	<i>January 18, 2024</i>
<i>Domenick A. Missaggia</i>	<i>March 12, 2024</i>
<i>John E. Springett, Sr</i>	<i>February 25, 2024</i>
<i>Isaac Spears, Sr.</i>	<i>May 3, 2024</i>
<i>Charles David Firebaugh</i>	<i>May 4, 2024</i>
<i>Edward J. Hynes</i>	<i>July 4, 2024</i>
<i>Thomas R. Nutter</i>	<i>July 12, 2024</i>
<i>Craig S. Werner<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>August 8, 2024</i>
<i>Thomas H. Etter</i>	<i>October 30, 2024</i>
<i>Charl Davidson</i>	<i>December 9, 2024</i>
<i>President Jimmy Carter<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>December 29, 2024</i>



<sup>1</sup> Craig Werner was presented the Robert Link Award by the HRB Base Commander for the USSVI National Commander on August 8, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> President Carter was not a base member however, he was the only president who was qualified in submarines.

As we move forward, I would like to base to get stronger and better. To incorporate more active-duty members into our ranks. Please remember many hands make light work. You get out of this what you put in it.

V/R

Gary Galles  
HRB Base Commander  
757 714-2733



## *2024 Officers Swearing in Ceremony*



Congratulations to the Slate of Officers sworn in to lead the base operations for the next two years.

Base Commander	Gary Galles
Senior Vice Commander	Adam Kingsley
Junior Vice Commander	Ron O'Donnell
Secretary	Lynn Merryman
Treasurer	John "Sid" Sidlovsky



*February 2024*



*Our K4K Crew Visits the Medical Center*



March 2024

St. Patrick's Day Parade Norfolk

March 16, 2024



Members of the base participated in the Annual Ocean View Parade to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day. This event has been held in Norfolk Ocean View area for 57 years and Subvets are always greeted with great enthusiasm and the event was enjoyed by all who attended.

I hope you will take the opportunity to join us in the Parade this on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

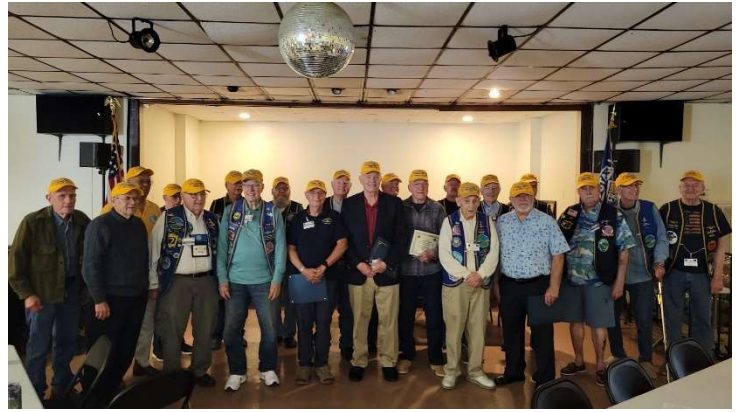


*April 26, 2024*  
*We Celebrate the Birth of The Greatest Submarine Force with the annual*  
*Birthday Ball Hosted by ComSubforce VADM Robert Gaucher*





*April Holland Club Induction Ceremony*  
*April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



*May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Honoring a HRB Base Legend*  
*Bud Warren*



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.

Shipmate Francis L (Bud) Warren,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the members of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI), I want to congratulate you for having been qualified in submarines for 76 years. After qualifying on the USS Dogfish, SS350 in 1948, you went on to serve on three more submarines, and retired from the United States Navy as a E-9 Master Chief.

You are a "True Pioneer" of the Submarine Force, and an inspiration to all your submarine shipmates. It is an honor and privilege to know and recognize you for your service to your country and the United States Submarine Force.

BRAVO ZULU SHIPMATE,

*William (Bill) Andrea*

William (Bill) Andrea  
USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER



*WWII Memorial Ceremony*  
*May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024*



*Hall of Fame Boat 2024 Ceremony*  
*May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024*  
*Induction of USS L. Mendel Rivers SSN -686*





**The Hall of Fame Boat program is a Submarine Recognition Program that serves the submarine community by recognizing one Submarine of exceptional merit each year. The HoF Program and those submarines nominated are wholly conceived, voted upon, and approved, by members of the Hampton Roads Base of the USSVI.org. Formal recognition of the successful candidate boat is provided by the Submarine Learning Facility in Norfolk VA.**



## **Past Hall of Fame Boat Program Winners**

**1999 - USS NORFOLK (SSN714)**

**First Navy Ship to have all Tomahawks land on target.**

**2000 - USS NARWAHL (SSN671)**

**25 years of special operations.**

**2001 - USS NAUTILUS (SSN571)**

**First Nuclear Submarine.**

**2002 - USS IREX (SS 482)**

**First Fleet Snorkel Submarine.**

**2003 - USS TRITON (SSN586)**

**First to circumnavigate the world submerged.**

**2004 - USS GRENADIER (SS 525) -**

**Forced a Soviet ZULU to surface, proving the USSR was conducting deterrent patrols.**

**2005 - USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)**

**First in modern hydro-dynamic design.**

**2006 - USS SKATE (SSN578)**

**First to surface at the geographic North Pole.**

**2007 - USS GROWLER (SSG577)**

**First in the Regulus program.**

**2008 - USS PARCHE (SSN683)**

**Most decorated ship in the Navy.**

**2009 - USS LAPON (SSN661)**

**2010 - USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598)**

**First Ballistic Missile Submarine**

**2011 - USS HALIBUT (SSGN587)**



**2012 - USS BATFISH (SSN681)**

**2013: USS SCORPION (SSN589)**

**2014 USS PICKEREL (SS 524)**

**Longest snorkel transit from Hong Kong to Pearl Harbor.**

**2015 - USS Skipjack (SSN585)**

**First nuclear submarine with the Albacore (Tear-Drop) hull.**

**2016 - USS Bergall (SSN667)**

**BQQ-5 Initial Opeval/Tech Eval**

**2017 - USS Requin (SS/SSR481)**

**Radar Pickett Operations in North Atlantic**

**2018 - USS Memphis (SSN691)**

**Designated R&D Boat**

**2019 - USS Baton Rouge (SSN689)**

**2020 - USS Spadefish (SSN668)**

**2022 - USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN709)**

**2023 - USS Atlanta (SSN712)**

**2024 - USS L Mendel Rivers (SSN686)**

**2025 - USS Henry Clay (SSN625)**

**All these boats were nominated in October, presented and discussed in November and the Membership votes for the winning boat in December. Once a boat is announced the winner of HOF designation the nominating member takes the lead to gather items for the official shadowbox and helps to gather shipmates from the winning boat to attend the annual induction event in May at the Submarine Learning Facility in Norfolk**



June 2024

Another Holland Club induction event

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024



USS Washington SSN-787

Change of Command Ceremony 20 July 2024



*August 10, 2024*  
*Our Base picnic*  
*Scholarship Award Presentation*



The committee has selected Jack Clayton, the grandson of Peter Flannery, for the HRB 2024-2025 Scholarship. Jack received \$1,500.00 sent to his school for his behalf.

*Memorial Service for*  
*EMCS (SS) Craig Werner*  
*August 29, 2024*



Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Parade  
September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024





*October 19, 2024*  
*Our Base Meeting had the DAR Honor our Vietnam Vets*

**Acknowledging our Viet Nam Veteran Submariners**



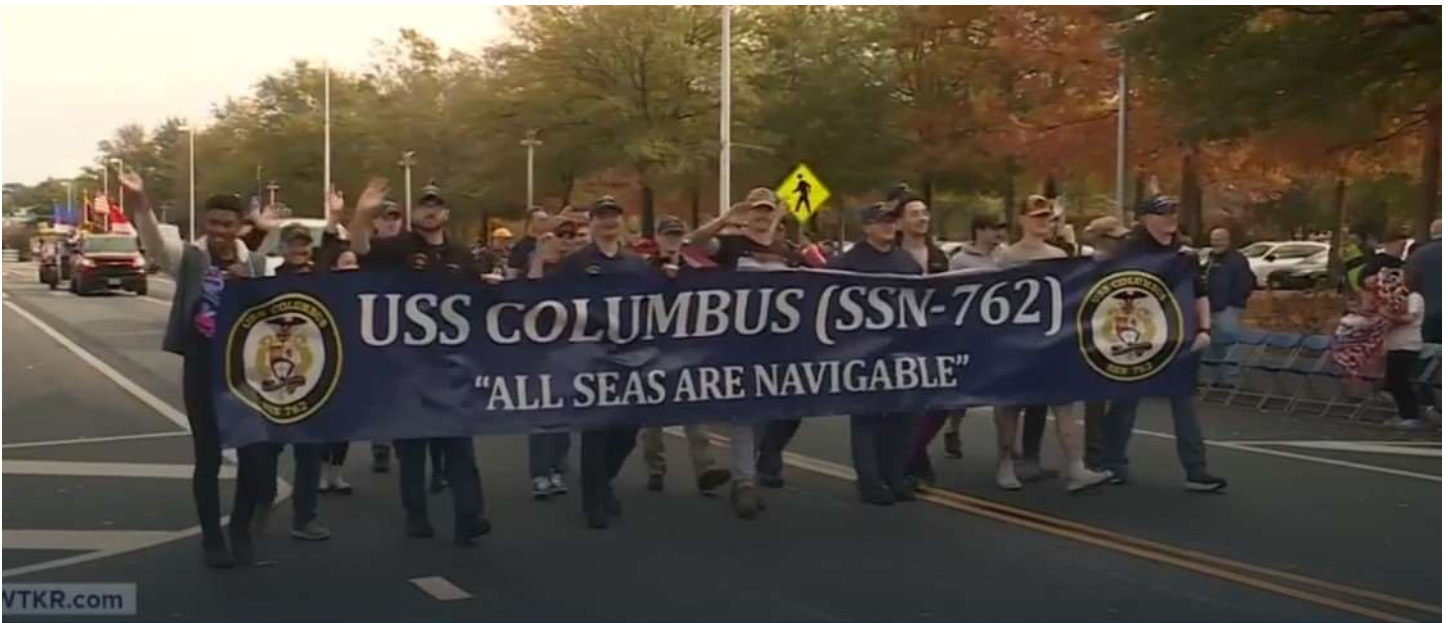
**Base Commander and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)**



*November Veterans Day Parade Pictures*







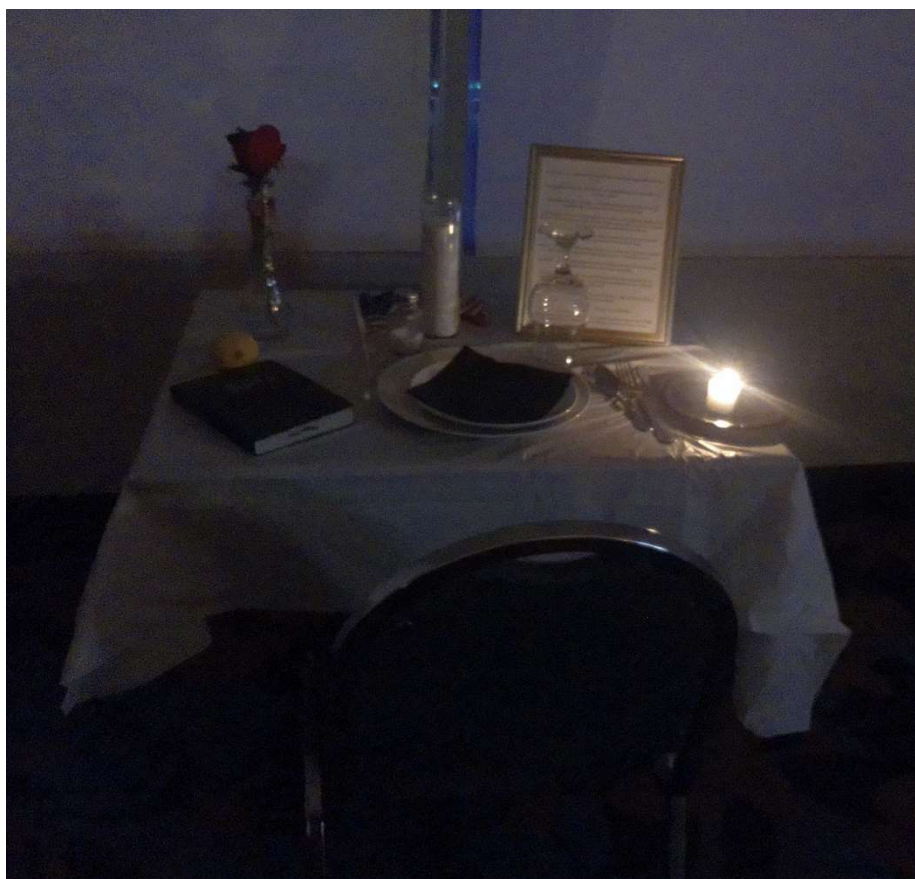
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United States Submarine Force





December 2024  
Base Annual Christmas Party  
December 14th, 2024





*December 21, 2024*  
*National Commander Coins Awards*

*Five of our Members Honored for the work they do for USSVI.*



*2024 was an amazing year for our Base.*

*May we all enjoy another momentous year in 2025?*

