



# USSVI Northern Virginia Base



## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1109 on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Howard Chatham, Michael “Mickey” Garverick, Ruth Garverick, Robert Glover, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Steve Jaeger, Darlene Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Paul Nelson, Teresa Nelson, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (18 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The **COB**, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **Chaplain**, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

The **Vice CDR**, Brian Haller, read the list of boats lost in September. These were:

USS S-5 (SS-110)	September 01, 1920
USS S-51(SS-162)	September 25, 1925
USS GRAYLING (SS-209)	September 09, 1943
USS POMPANO (SS-181)	September 17 – October 05, 1943
USS CISCO (SS-290)	September 28, 1943

The **COB** then tolled the ship’s bell twice for the 32 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

**IN MEMORIAM:** TCMCM (SS) Walter Hughes, USN, Ret. – 7/25/2021; RADM John Joseph Ekelund, USN, Ret – 7/28/2021; LCDR Dennis Joseph Sullivan, Jr., USN, Ret. – 8/8/21; CAPT Daniel Donovan, USN, Ret. – 8/9/2021; CWO2 Henry H. Weber, USN, Ret. – 8/9/2021; CAPT Michael A. McBride, USN, Ret. – 8/27/21.

**20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TRIBUTE:** The COB provided a remembrance tribute of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 for the victims and first responders to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on Flight 93 which crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The ship’s bell was tolled twice in honor of those who died in this tragedy. The tribute is appended at the end of these minutes.

**BASE HISTORIAN:** Woody Woodworth read COMSUBPAC’s second sitrep email on the USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) grounding. The email is appended at the end of these minutes.



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## MEETING MINUTES

The August 2021 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussions for the August minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted.

The **TREASURER**, Brian Haller, presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

•	Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$ 10,322.67
•	Plus Receipts:	
	- NFCU Interest/Dividends	\$ 0.00
•	- 50/50 Raffle	\$ 47.00
•	- Donation to Base	\$ 47.00
•	Minus Expenditures:	
	- None	\$ 0.00
•	Ending Sub-Total:	\$ 10,416.67
	- Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	(\$1,379.40)
•	Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$ 9,037.27
•	USSVICF NOVA Base K4K Balance:	\$ 3,054.10
•	Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVICF):	\$ 4,433.50

The CDR asked whether there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's report, hearing none, the report was accepted.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** meeting was held on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2021 Holland Club
- K4K Program
- Old & New Business
- Other Base events/calendar

The **VCDR**, Brian Haller, reminded our members that our Holland Club Induction luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Amphora Diner Deluxe in Herndon, VA. Invitations requesting RSVP and desired entrée will be sent out shortly after this meeting. The cost per person will be \$35.00.

The **PAO**, Mike Varone, presented the following:

- USSVI Northern Virginia Base was well represented by nine of our members at the USSVI National Convention held August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Base is in discussion with Al Anceravage family to see about arranging a celebration for Al's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** presented by Chuck Marin: 79 members comprising:

- 42 Holland Club members,
  - 3 WW II members
- 29 Regular members
  - 20 Life members
  - 09 Annual members
- 8 Associate members
- Annual membership for Regular and Associate Members expires on December 31 of the year that dues expire. Emails will be sent shortly reminding you that your membership expires this year and requesting you pay your dues early.
- Early Bird drawing will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at our meeting. Members who have paid their annual membership dues by December 11<sup>th</sup> will be in the drawing. Winners will have their next Base annual fees paid for by the Base.
- Early Bird winners from last year drawing are: Regular Member - George Wallace and Associate Member – Cathy Chatham. Their Base 2022 member dues will be paid for by the Base.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Mickey Garverick, provided the following:

- National Junior Vice Commander Steve Bell's wife, Margie (Ma) Bell, unexpectedly passed away on September 9, 2021. Please keep Steve and his family in your prayers and thoughts.
- ABC Channel 7 aired a two-hour September 11, 2001, tribute on September 10, 2021. It is worth watching if you can find it airing again.
- On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the Washington Area Coalition of Men's Ministries will hold a conference on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Capital Baptist Church in Annandale VA. Contact Mickey at 703-270-5343 or go to [www.wacmm.org](http://www.wacmm.org) for additional information.

The **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, provided the following:

- K4K visits have been suspended until further notice. We are in discussion with the three hospitals to determine when K4K visits can resume.

The **SCOUTING COORDINATOR**, Chuck Martin, had nothing to report.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, 2021 USSVI Calendars (for \$2), Silent Service dog tags/keychains, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Storekeeper also has access to National USSVI SK, Submarine Ships Store, and SubmarineShop.com items for purchase.
- Five 2022 USSVI calendars are now available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- Contact Howard at [storekeeper@ussvinova.org](mailto:storekeeper@ussvinova.org) if you have an interest in purchasing any submarine-related merchandise.



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The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported the following:

- No issues with the Base website.
- USSVI National website is experiencing trouble being viewed via the Edge browser. Using the Opera web browser appears to work, you can download the “Opera Browser” at this link <https://www.opera.com/download> or some people has reported being able to view the website by using Internet Explorer and Safari.
- Base speakers and presentations are now on the Base website.
  - Go to the USSVI Northern Virginia Base website at [www.ussvinova.org](http://www.ussvinova.org)
  - Scroll down the home page until you reach the Photo Album/Presentations section
  - Click on the Presentations hyperlink listed in the second bullet
  - A new page will open up with the list of available presentations and the hyperlink for viewing the presentation
  - Select the presentation(s) you wish to view and click on the associated hyperlink.

The **USSVI NE District Four Commander**, Chuck Martin, provided the following:

- The USSV Charitable Foundation raised \$6000 during the USSVI National Convention.
- USSVI National website is in the final stages of development with the goal of being operational by the end of the year.
- Chuck Martin, NE4 District CDR, was sworn into office at the USSVI National Convention.
- North East Region’s Bases USSVI Capitol and USSVI Northern Virginia were recognized with the Meritorious Award at the USSVI National Convention for their Base activities.
  - The District CDR read the NOVA Base’s nomination letter for the Meritorious award then presented the award to the VCDR. The letter is appended at the end of these minutes.

On behalf of the **NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL)** Executive Director, Tim Oliver, the **Capitol Chapter President**, George Wallace, and the Base **CDR** provided the following information on upcoming NSL and related events:

- NSL Headquarters address is 405 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone number is 703-256-0891.
- NSL Capitol Chapter:
  - The next Capitol Chapter meeting is scheduled for 8 October at the Army/Navy Country Club at 12:00 with doors opening at 11:30.
    - Keynote speakers are:
      - Commodore Phil Nash - Naval Attaché, British Defence Staff, Washington
      - Ms. Lois Nicholson, Counsellor Defence Acquisition and Technology, UK MOD
    - Send your RSVP request by email to Chapter Secretary, Dixon Hicks, [CapitolNSL1@outlook.com](mailto:CapitolNSL1@outlook.com), no later than 1600, 1 Oct.
  - If you have missed meetings, you can still see and hear the guest speaker’s presentations by visiting [https://capitol.navalsubleague.org/?page\\_id=30](https://capitol.navalsubleague.org/?page_id=30)



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- October 2020 Meeting, Jonti Powis presentation
- December 2020 Meeting, Don Keith presentation
- NSL Brick Campaign:
  - You can contribute to the Capital Campaign by purchasing a brick for the patio at the NSL headquarters. This is an opportunity to display your name, your boat's name, the NSL logo, or a message up to 3 lines of 18 characters each. At \$140 each, an NSL brick would make a great gift! And it is a donation, so tax-deductible to the extent you can deduct charitable contributions
  - To buy a brick, go to the NSL website...SUPPORT US...NSL SHOPPING...and place your order, or click on the link:  
[https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague\\_1/default/index.php](https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague_1/default/index.php)
- 2021 Annual Symposium and Industry Update:
  - Scheduled for 17-18 November 2021
  - Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Alexandria, VA
  - Registration information will be posted this month on the NSL website

On behalf of the **International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA)** President, John "Bud" Cunnally, the Base **CDR** provided the following:

- Upcoming International Submarines Congress:
  - Date: May 22-26, 2022
  - Location: Karlskrona, Sweden
  - Activities include Naval Museum tour, Naval Base tour, Memorial Service, Boat trip, and local activities
  - Application for participation needs to be submitted no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and payment of the conference fee no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - For more information, visit their website at <http://www.57isc.com/>
- 11-day Scandinavia & Russia Cruise after the Congress:
  - Roundtrip from Copenhagen, Denmark on board the Enchanted Princess cruise ship
  - 26 May 2022 to 6 June 2022. Ship leaves at 1800
  - Interior cabins from \$1959\*
    - \*Pricing is per person, double occupancy; USD
  - Mention while you are booking you are traveling with the ISA/USA group for some extra goodies
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website [www.isausa.org/](http://www.isausa.org/)
  - Life membership to the ISA/USA is \$50.00
  - Application is on the ISA/USA website
  - There are 33 countries as members of ISA

## Upcoming submarine reunions:

- USS Darter (SS-576) – September 16-19, 2021; North Little Rock, AR
- USS Dace (SSN-607) – September 23-26, 2021; Branson, MO
- USS Halfbeak (SS-352) – September 13-17, 2021; Kings Bay, GA



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- USS Spadefish (SSN 668)—September 15-17, 2021; Norfolk, VA
  - USS Spadefish will be inducted into the Submarine Hall of Fame on 16 Sep
- USS James K. Polk (SSBN-645) – September 30-October 3, 2021; Charleston, SC
- USS Parche (SSN-683) – September 17-19, 2021; Charleston, SC
- USS Raton (SS-270) – September 29-October 3, 2021; North Little Rock, AR
- USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN-631) – September 19-23, 2021; Baltimore, MD
- USS James K. Polk (SSBN-645) – September 30-October 3, 2021; Charleston, SC
- USS Chivo (SS-341) – October 3-7, 2021; Annapolis, MD
- USS Diablo (SS-479) – October 6-10, 2021; Virginia Beach, VA
- USS Dogfish (SS-350) – October 13-16, 2021; North Little Rock, AR
- USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN-655) – October 13-17, 2021; Cincinnati, OH
- USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602) – October 28-31, 2021; Charlotte, NC
- USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN-630) – October 28-30, 2021; Charleston, SC

**Call or Email the POC listed in the *American Submariner* to determine the status of reunions.**

## OLD BUSINESS

- 2021 USSVI National Convention was held August 30-September 4, 2021, at Location: Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Blvd, Orlando, Florida 32819. Our base was represented by Bob & Sue Glover, Tim Oliver, George & Penny Wallace, Mike Varone, Brian & Pat Haller, and Chuck Martin
- Ray Stone's collection of submarine memorabilia that he bequeathed to the Base will be auctioned off during our Pirate Auction this year. The items included various plaques, a poker set, and multiple framed prints.
- LCDR Greg Raelson, USN, Ret. (submariner turned Hornet bubba turned PAO) and part owner of Pickleballerz in Chantilly has generously offered a special deal for USSVI members to play pickleball. This offer includes lessons and court time. Contact Howard Chatham at [storekeeper@ussvinova.org](mailto:storekeeper@ussvinova.org) if interested in details.
  - Howard mentioned that if you don't need lessons, there are pickleball courts available in Fairfax County.

The CDR called for other items of old business and none were provided.

## NEW BUSINESS

- No additional new business.
- For the latest COVID-19 information in the Northern Virginia area visit one of the below websites:
  - State of Virginia – <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov>
  - Dept of Veterans Affairs – <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine>
  - Arlington County – <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/>
  - City of Alexandria – <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>
  - Fairfax County – <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>
  - Prince William County – <https://coronavirus.pwcgov.org>





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The CDR called for any other items of new business and none were provided:

## **The Binnacle List**

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Barbara Harmody, Steve Jaeger, Francis McNamara, Robert R. Miller, Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, and Tony Poblete.

**For the Good of the Order**, the list of birthdays for September: Howard Chatham, Jim Kraut, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, Woody Woodworth, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

The 50/50 raffle was won by the Joe Phoenix, who donated his winnings (\$90) back to the Base.

## **BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Our next base meeting will be our Holland Club Induction luncheon on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Amphora Diner Deluxe (1151 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170).
- Immediately following this meeting, we are hosting a BBQ for our members and guests.

The Chaplain delivered the Benediction.

The CDR called for a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 1157.

Submitted by Chuck Martin  
USSVI NOVA Base Commander



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## **TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF 20th ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 By Michael Varone, USSVI Northern Virginia Base Chief of the Boat**

Just a few simple remarks from one who is not a speech writer.

Today marks the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on Flight 93 which crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Three thousand people perished in these attacks. All of us here remember exactly where we were on that day and what we were doing.

We all got up that morning never thinking of any sort of disaster would happen to us on that day and we were ready to go about our business.

I ask that you all now remember and that you never forget the terrorists who did this to our country and people. The evildoers have not gone away and are as dangerous and powerful as ever.

9/11 was a day like the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. 9/11 is also a day that will live in infamy. Let us never forget.

A moment of silence, please.”





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## USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN-711): COMSUBPAC SITREP Email

Subject: SITREP ~ USS San Francisco Grounding

In a message dated 1/10/2005 6:01:29 PM Hawaiian Standard Time, xxxxxxxx.com writes:

Sent: Mon Jan 10 02:17:01 2005

Subject: USS SAN FRANCISCO SITREP -2100W/9 Jan 05

Fellow Flag Officers this is my second unclas update on the SAN FRANCISCO incident for your situational awareness:

At 10 January 1634 local (100134 EST) the USS SAN FRANCISCO returned safely to Apra Harbor, Guam. The ship moored with her own line handlers in a normal submarine configured mooring (AFT draft is 27'-10" (normal AFT draft is 32') and FWD Draft is above the draft marks with the waterline at the point the towed array faring begins; 0.8 degree STBD list and 1 degree Down bubble indicating by naval architecture calculations that 1 A/B and 2A/B MBTs are most likely flooded). The severely injured Machinist Mate (Engineerroom Upper Level Watch at time of grounding) was evacuated immediately and transferred by ambulance to Naval Hospital Guam where a fully staffed medical team was standing by. He is conscious and in stable condition. Approximately fifteen additional injured personnel requiring medical care subsequently departed the ship and were transported to the hospital after taking a moment to meet with family members.

Crewmembers from the USS CORPUS CHRISTI, HOUSTON and FRANK CABLE assisted in linehandling and various return to port evolutions such as propulsion plant shutdown, shorepower cables, and rig for surface. Standing by on the pier was a full complement of watchstanders from USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (and SAN FRANCISCO stay-behinds) to satisfy all watchstanding requirements for reactor plant shutdown with follow-on inport forward and aft watchsections.

Following the grounding on 8 January, the ship transited on the surface at 8kts with surface escort, USCGC GALVESTON ISLAND to Apra Harbor, Guam. Due to deteriorated weather conditions on the evening of 9 January, the Commanding Officer shifted bridge watchstations to control and shut bridge access hatches to maximize watertight integrity in light of reserve buoyancy concerns. The ship maintained stability throughout the surface transit with continuous operation of the Low Pressure Blower on the Forward Main Ballast Tanks. SAN FRANCISCO has experienced no reactor plant, propulsion train or electrical system degradations as a result of the grounding. The Commanding Officer shifted the Officer of the Deck's watch to the bridge on 10 January in preparation for piloting into Apra Harbor.

The critically injured Machinist Mate (Auxiliaryman) passed away yesterday afternoon as a result of his injuries. The MM2 was in Aft Main Seawater Bay at the time of the grounding and



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his body was thrown forward approximately 20 feet into Propulsion Lube Oil Bay. He suffered a severe blow to his forehead and never regained consciousness.

Emergency medical personnel, including a Naval Hospital Guam surgeon, Undersea Medical Officer and Independent Duty Corpsmen, arrived on the ship via helicopter transfer to provide immediate medical care and prepare the crewmember for medical evacuation on the morning of 9 January. Unfortunately, the sailor's condition deteriorated and he died onboard while under the care of the embarked physicians. Just moments prior to the sailor's death, I spoke with the Sailor's father in preparation for their pending travel from Ohio to the West Pacific to see their Son. Since then I have passed on to his Dad my condolences on their Son's death and reassured them their Son's remains would be treated with utmost respect and dignity. His father expressed great gratitude for the extraordinary efforts made by the Navy to save his Son's life. He told me his Son loved the Navy, having just reenlisting earlier this year and wanted to make it a career. That when he called home he always talked about the many friendships and the wonderful camaraderie the crew of SFO exhibited. Prior to sailing, he was really excited about the pending ship visit to Australia. The parents are considering traveling to Guam, with Navy support, at some point to meet the crew and partake in a memorial service for his Son.

For the remainder of the transit, the embarked medical trauma team administered medical care to the other injured personnel. Their careful attention and evaluation augments the ship's Independent Duty Corpsman's heroic efforts since the grounding.

Submarine Squadron Fifteen COMMODORE, Captain Brad Gerhke and Captain Paul Bushong, Commanding Officer of the Submarine Tender USS FRANK CABLE have mobilized their assets, staffs, crews and local Navy Community to provide comprehensive support to the SAN FRANCISCO. Professional counselors, medical personnel and Navy Chaplains are scheduled to meet with the entire crew to provide grief counseling and assistance throughout the next several days and as required over the long term. Brad has been meeting frequently with the SFO families and they are doing remarkable well. The entire Navy community in Guam has come to the SFO's families' assistance.

I have talked to Kevin Mooney's (SFO Skipper) wife, XXXX(Phibian FP edit). Her state of mind is positive and resolute, with a courageous and upbeat view of the trying days ahead.

The ship's Main Ballast Tank damage and deformation has degraded maneuverability and mandated the use of two tugs to moor in Apra Harbor. A Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard/NAVSEA Material Assessment Team comprised of a structural engineer, MBT vent expert, air systems expert and naval architect arrived in Guam with special ship salvage and recovery equipment to stabilize the ship pier-side as soon as possible. The team, led by Captain Charles Doty, commenced a seaworthiness and repair assessment upon the ship's arrival. Once additional buoyancy measures are in place and tested satisfactory, the Low Pressure Blower will be secured to allow divers to enter the water to conduct an inspection. While this grounding is a tragedy, with a thorough investigation led by Cecil Haney, we will find out all the facts and then ensure we learn from the mistakes. But, I too believe we have much to be thankful for today, and much to be confident in.



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An operational warship has returned to port on her own power with all but one of its crew after sustaining major hull damage. The survival of the ship after such an incredibly hard grounding (nearly instantaneous deceleration from Flank Speed to 4 KTS) is a credit to the ship design engineers and our day-to-day engineering and watchstanding practices. The continuous operation of the propulsion plant, electrical systems and navigation demonstrates the reliability of our equipment and the operational readiness of our crews as a whole. The impressive Joint and Navy team effort which resulted in SFO returning to port safely says volumes about the ingenuity and resourcefulness of all our armed services. For all who participated in this effort, thank you and your people. We are all eternally grateful to each of you.

Very Respectfully - Paul Sullivan



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## USSVI Northern Virginia Base 2021 Meritorious Award Class II Base

The USSVI Northern Virginia (NOVA) Base was chartered in 1996 and currently has 80 members, of whom 42 are Holland Club members, 20 are regular members, and 8 are associate members. In the last year, five of our Holland Club members, one of whom was a WWII veteran, departed on Eternal Patrol. Notwithstanding this sad note, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue as an active and thriving base.

With the advent of COVID, we shifted all our meetings to an online video format. The meetings open with 30 minutes of free time for members to chat with those we can no longer visit with in person and the video conferencing is kept open for more sea-stories and chit-chat after the meeting. Using this format, we have been able to allow members who have moved out of state to socialize with other Base members and participate in our meetings. The NE Regional Director and our District Commander routinely, and the Commanders of the Tri-State and Capitol Bases frequently, join in our meetings. With the expanded inclusion and geographic reach that we have experienced with teleconferencing, we have decided to maintain teleconferencing, even when we are able to return to in-person meetings, so more may participate.

The COVID protocols have made us cancel our normal Sweetheart's and BBQ luncheons, the Holiday party, and our annual Dining Out, as well as participation in the local Fourth of July parade. More importantly, we have been unable to conduct the Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) visits to our local Fairfax County Inova hospital, the University of Virginia hospital in Charlottesville, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. We are currently in discussions with Fairfax Inova hospital to determine whether we could conduct visits virtually if we provided funding for tablet computers for the use of the children on the ward.

More importantly, we have been unable to meet in person for:

- induction of new members into the Holland Club,
- recognition of current Holland Club members Qualified in Submarines for 75 years, and presentation of new Senior Submarine Service awards.

Planning is underway to hold an in-person luncheon meeting in October to present these honors.

We have experienced a reduction in the number of Boy Scout troops requesting our Base in-person participation in Eagle Scout Courts of Honor but have provided recognition materials to them by mail.

We coordinated with a local consulting firm to arrange for the manufacture of face masks "advertising" USSVI and the NOVA Base. These, and hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes, were distributed to each member of the Base.

We have made donations to the USSVICF Scholarship fund, the Groton Base Thanksgiving Sharing and Caring Event, and coordinated with a local fundraising campaign (Project Mend-A-House) to collect donations from the Base and Base members ensuring that our funds would be used to assist veterans in need. We also procured a brick for the patio of the new Naval Submarine League Headquarters which reads, "In Honor of All Submariners". And we sponsor



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two submarines under the Boat Sponsorship Program. Several of our members also sponsor other boats and a few NROTC Units.

Several members of the Base viewed the online USSVI Annual Business Meeting and watched the presentation of the Tolling of the Boats. This gave us the realization that we, too, could do the latter. Normally, we hold our Tolling of the Boats in person in the Spring but had to cancel that in 2020. We were able to hold it online in November 2020 and then again in our normal slot in April 2021.

We maintain a Base website that displays the USSVI Creed and information on:

- Base officers, meetings, and upcoming events,
- Outreach programs,
- Holland Club,
- how to join USSVI and NOVA Base,
- links to various submarine related sites,
- postings of the Base meeting minutes,
- a Sailing List of Base members with the boats they qualified on and, unfortunately, a too long list of Base members who have departed on Eternal Patrol.

This year we added a new feature – a page where one can view recordings of the guest speaker presentations at our meetings.

During the past year, we had an active duty MMCS(SS) from the Nuclear Reactors staff enlighten us on staffing at NR HQ, NPTU and MTS operations, COVID impacts on the nuclear Navy, and information about the historic museum ship USS Nautilus. We also ran a video tour of the USS Pampanito (SS-383) and viewed the Nautilus museum's YouTube video of "Nautilus Behind the Scenes: Operation Sunshine". One of our members, who is an amateur historian, gave us a presentation on "Executing Unrestricted Submarine Warfare – the History of the U.S. Submarine Force in WW II". Another, a retired CTTC(SS), briefed us on his career as a crypto technician and how he came to be Qualified in Submarines.

We are rather proud of the fact that we had over 23% of our members vote in the USSVI National elections in 2020. While that is not as good as we would have liked, it was significantly better than the 15% average for USSVI overall, the 4.5% in the NE region, and the 7.75% in our district. We are also proud of the fact that we had a 100% renewal of our membership for 2021.

We are thankful for and proud of our close relationships with the Naval Submarine League (one of our members is the Executive Director and another the President of the Capitol Chapter) and the International Submarine Association (the ISA President is one of our members). Two of our members hold National USSVI positions – the chairman of the National Scholarship Committee and the USSVI JAG (Legal Team).

This year our Base Commander completed the Base Commander qualification card, and our Vice Commander is working on the same. Our Base Commander also coordinated an online seminar on Base Commander qualifications with our Vice Commander and the Commanders from the Tri-State and Capitol Bases. Our Base Commander is also running for District Commander this year.



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Then, of course, there is all the mundane stuff like keeping the membership informed of VA health issues, TRICARE Open Season, availability of local COVID information, Arlington National Cemetery reopening and visitation, and all the POCs from National.

In summation, the Northern Virginia Base is highly recommended for and deserving of a USSVI Meritorious Award for 2021.





## USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTOS







# USSVI Northern Virginia Base





# USSVI Northern Virginia Base

