



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC  
USSVI GROTON BASE MEETING AGENDA  
March 1, 2021

YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST USE THIS LINK, FOR THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING AS THE PHONE NUMBER / LOG IN HAS CHANGED!

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/5688488784](https://zoom.us/j/5688488784)

MEETING ID: 568 848 8784

ONE TAP MOBILE

+13017158592,,5688488784# US (WASHINGTON D.C) 13126266799,,5688488784#

+US (CHICAGO)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION

+1 301 715 8592 US (WASHINGTON D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (CHICAGO)

+1 929 205 6099 US (NEW YORK)

+1 253 215 8782 US (TACOMA)

+1 346 248 7799 US (HOUSTON)

+1 669 900 6833 US (SAN JOSE)

MEETING ID: 568 848 8784

FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/U/ACD4K2PVRM](https://zoom.us/j/5688488784)

CALL TO ORDER 6:30 pm (pause for video for eternal patrol and creed)

ETERNAL PATROL

**USS PERCH (SS-176) LOST ON MARCH 3,1942** NEAR JAVA WITH NO IMMEDIATE LOSS OF LIFE, WHILE ON HER 1ST WAR PATROL. SHE SURVIVED 2 SEVERE DEPTH CHARGING IN LESS THAN 200 FEET OF WATER BY 3 JAPANESE DESTROYERS. THE CREW ABANDONED SHIP AND SCUTTLED HER. OF THE 59 OFFICERS AND MEN TAKEN PRISONER, 53 SURVIVED THE WAR AND SIX DIED AS POWS.

**USS GRAMPUS (SS-207) LOST ON MARCH 5,1943** WITH THE LOSS OF 71 OFFICERS AND MEN, ON HER 6TH WAR PATROL. SHE WAS LOST IN VELLA GULF, SUNK AFTER ENGAGING 2 JAPANESE DESTROYERS.

**USS H-1 (SS-28) LOST ON MARCH 12, 1920** WITH THE LOSS OF 4 MEN AS THEY TRIED TO SWIM TO SHORE AFTER GROUNDING ON A SHOAL OFF SANTA MARGARITA ISLAND, OFF THE COAST OF BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO. VESTAL (AR-4), PULLED H-1 OFF THE ROCKS IN THE MORNING OF 24 MARCH, ONLY TO HAVE HER SINK 45 MINUTES LATER IN SOME 50 FEET OF WATER. SHE WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED THE USS SEAWOLF BEFORE BECOMING H-1.

**USS TRITON (SS-201) LOST ON MARCH 15,1943** WITH THE LOSS OF 74 MEN. SHE WAS SUNK NORTH OF THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS DURING A FIGHT WITH 3 JAPANESE DESTROYERS. TRITON WAS THE 1ST BOAT TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY IN DECEMBER 1941 OFF WAKE ISLAND, SINKING 9 SHIPS, 1 SUBMARINE AND A DESTROYER.



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1. CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country, that their dedications, deeds, and supreme sacrifice serve as a constant source of motivation towards greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution"

2. CHAPLAIN

3. OPENING EVENTS

A. INTRODUCTION AND RECOGNITION OF VIP AND GUESTS

4. AWARD PRESENTATION:

5. MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE

6. BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING (All non-members are excused)

a. ACTION ITEMS

i. Secretary Report

1. Correspondence
2. Minutes on the website

ii. Treasurer Report

1. all 2021 monthly reports on the website
2. All bills including taxes have been paid
3. Funds available for club expenses \$
4. Pending obligations:

a. Liquor license \$2000 due in April 2021 (may be reduced)

Membership & Holland Club Chair Report

Renewal Application can be found at  
<https://www.ussvigroton.org/docs>

USSVI Groton Base Membership Update.

Holland Club Update

iii. Junior Vice Commander Report

iv. Senior Vice Commander Report

v. Commander - Executive Board Report



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Memorial (Marian Galbraith)
  
- Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) (John Riley)
  
  
- Chaplain (Jack Gallimore)  
Eternal Patrol – February 2021  
Feb 23 - Friess, Walter Jacob  
Feb 22 - Sinacore, Leonard E  
Feb 20 - Costa, Louis  
Feb 15 - Brinkman, Gerald Adelbert  
Feb 5 - Gilbert, Jr, Joseph William
  
- Veterans Affairs (Al Kinsall)

**VA REGISTRATION – If you are enrolled in the VA Healthcare system, COVID vaccinations are being scheduled. Contact your VA healthcare provider to be scheduled. If you are not enrolled, you can contact Al Kinsall for information how to become enrolled. It does have its benefits.**

FRA, AUSN AND OTHERS ASKS SECDEF NOT TO RAISE TRICARE FEES - The FRA and several other groups have dispatched a joint letter to the newly appointed Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Lloyd Austin, urging him not to include a TRICARE fee increase in his FY2022 Department of Defense (DoD) budget request. The letter reminds Austin that health care is one of the most important elements of the military compensation and benefits package. It is also a key benefit to retention.

After two decades of unprecedented demands on the all-volunteer force, the cohort that served nearly their entire careers during wartime, is approaching retirement or have recently retired. At the same time, TRICARE fee increases have diminished the value of the health care benefit, particularly for retirees. Since major changes in the Military Healthcare System (MHS) were passed into law with the FY2017 NDAA, beneficiaries have faced a series of out-of-pocket cost increases. In 2018, copays for outpatient visits more than doubled. In 2018 and 2020, pharmacy copays increased, and biennial pharmacy copay hikes are programmed in statute through 2027. As of January 2021, Group A retirees on TRICARE Select have a new monthly enrollment fee and a higher catastrophic cap.

The letter also urges SecDef to reconsider scheduled cuts to medical billets that were delayed due to the pandemic. ■

NEW LONDON VETERANS AFFAIRS - New London Veterans Affairs has rolled out a new Veteran program. It is VETERAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. NLVA will select nominees from the Greater New London Area from applications received no later than 1 May 2021. The selected Veteran(s) will be



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honored at its Military Appreciation Day at Ocean Beach Park in New London on 14 August 2021. MAD is an all-day event held to honor all Veterans, Retirees, Reservists, and Active-Duty military. The event is sponsored by the City of New London and the Management of Ocean Beach Park in New London.

New London Veterans Affairs will be holding a Memorial Day service at 1400 on 31 May 2021. At that service we will include the dedication ceremony for the Walk of Honor.

NLVA continues to sell Memorial bricks for the Walk of Honor to area Veterans or family members who wish to memorialize a family member or friend for their service to our country. If you wish to have your brick installed in time for this event, contact Steve Ricard (Program Coordinator) at [dva@newlondonct.org](mailto:dva@newlondonct.org) for an application form. ■

MILITARY RETIREE SURVIVOR COMFORT ACT - Rep. John Garamendi (Calif.) will introduce the "Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" at the FRA's request. This bill would allow for the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse (or other designated survivor) of a military retiree for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours.

Surviving spouses who are unaware that the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) should be notified immediately on the death of the military retiree are surprised to learn of this requirement. Those who had joint bank accounts, in which retirement payments were made electronically, gave little if any thought that DFAS could swoop down and recoup any overpayments of retirement pay from such accounts. This action could easily clear the account of any funds remaining whether they were retirement payments or money from other sources. Instead of withdrawing the payment all at once the bill would allow a gradual repayment over 12 months. The bill also gives the Secretary of Defense the option to forgive the over payment. ■

**VETERANS TO SEE CONTINUED DEBT RELIEF OPTIONS DURING PANDEMIC - Veterans facing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic will soon see extended debt relief options from VA. By extending debt relief through Sept. 30, VA reaffirms its commitment to helping Veterans getting through these hard times.**

VA will [continue suspension](#) of collection on all Veteran benefit overpayments and medical copayment debts incurred after April 1, 2020.

VA is suspending this debt collection to provide Veterans continued financial relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My top priority right now is to do everything in our power to help our Veterans, caregivers and their families get through this challenging COVID-19 pandemic," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "VA will continue to find ways to provide real relief to 2 million Veterans and their families as we fight through this health crisis together."

Veterans and beneficiaries with questions regarding benefit overpayments can see [frequently asked questions](#), go online to [submit requests](#) or call 800-827-0648. Call volume is generally lower Tuesday-Friday. ■



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**ASK IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.....**

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Proposed By-laws change – April 2021**

- I. Elimination of BOT**
- II. Add statement that Eboard has authority to correct any grammer or errors that might appear**
- III. Clarity role of Sr Vice – responsibility for Audit**
- IV. Create wording to identify Subvettes and Westport**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**CLOSING EVENTS**

**a. Good of the Order**

**b. Closing Prayer**

**ADJOURN** ***NEXT MEETINGS: Membership meeting Monday April 5, 2021***