

Appropriation for USS VERMONT Support Group (VSG)

The USS VERMONT (SSN 792) is a Virginia class nuclear fast attack submarine, commissioned in 2020, with a crew of 135 sailors, and is expected to be in active service through 2050.

USS VERMONT Support Group's mission is to support our namesake boat, her officers, crew, and families, on behalf of all Vermonters.

VSG current / continuing objectives: support the morale and welfare of the crew and their families; grow a community of supporters within Vermont; inform Vermonters about the sub & crew activities; and maintain lasting relationships with the crew of the USS VERMONT.

In support of these objectives, VSG provides direct support to crew and family activities each year. We donate a Vermont "Sunshine Bag" with Maple Syrup, a Vermont Strong license plate, and tastes of Vermont from our VSFA partners to each new crew member. We sponsor "Sailor of the Quarter" awards, and provide a Vermont Teddy Bear for each new crew member's baby. VSG sponsors crew visits to Vermont, which we did in March and July of 2022, and participates in summer field days and fairs to educate Vermonters. The VSG maintains a website and publishes a quarterly newsletter to inform Vermonters about our namesake ship's activities. Major public events in 2023 include a "Vermonters Day" in Groton CT when tours of our namesake boat will be held. just before the ship leaves for Pearl Harbor, and a "Welcome to Pearl Harbor" event as they arrive at their new home port.

Long-term objectives: workforce training and bring crew skills and work experience to Vermont.

VSG's five-year budget is \$210k; \$160k for current operations, and \$50k for long term investment.

We are asking for a state appropriation of \$10k/yr. within the Governor's budget for Veterans and Military Affairs to sustain support for our namesake boat, crew and families.