

One of America's Best Charities and 2017 CFC Underway

Before I address the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Education Foundation's most recent achievement, I want to thank all FRA Branches, Shipmates and Auxiliary members for their strong and continuing support of the Fleet Reserve Association Education Foundation. This includes the generous contributions presented to the foundation by delegates who attended the FRA 90th National Convention in Hunt Valley, Md.

A long-time goal of the foundation has been to become a member of the Military Support Groups of America (MSGA). I'm proud to say that earlier this year, it was accepted into this federation of non-profit organization. This is a significant accomplishment because member organizations must pass a comprehensive review of its operations, IRS Form 990 filings, administrative costs and awards history.

The "Best in America" seal signifies this achievement and we are now authorized to display it on the foundation letter head, web page and promotional material. This seal of excellence is awarded to charitable or educational organizations that meet the highest standards of public accountability, program efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Selection as a member of MSGA is significant to FRA's stature among the country's top military and veterans organizations. Additionally, it is highly important to the foundation's participation in the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which launched in October and runs through mid-January 2018.

The foundation has been authorized to participate in the CFC since 2012 and our CFC number is again 80236 for 2017. This number is important to reference while making contributions in support of the foundation to help fund future scholarship awards to deserving FRA Shipmates and other Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel and their families.



This year's CFC campaign has expanded from previous campaigns. Military, federal and postal service retirees are now authorized to participate in the program, along with current military personnel and civilian federal and postal employees.

The CFC is administered by the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. According to the CFC web site, just last year, military and civilian federal employees contributed more than \$167 million to almost 20,000 charitable organizations. Military and Department of Defense civilian contribution were responsible for \$67 million of that total.

Contributions are tax deductible and can be made via individual pay allotments. Particularly significant to current and retired military personnel is that OPM has contracted with the Give Back Foundation to develop and deploy a new online national CFC donor pledging system. According to the Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS), the new online system is replacing the electronic CFC module in myPay.

A reminder that the 2018 FRA Education Foundation scholarship application cycle commenced on September 1, 2017 and continues until April 15, 2018. Scholarship applications with detailed application instructions and requirements are posted on the foundation section of FRA's web site at fra.org/foundation.

Please help spread the word to Shipmates, their spouses, children and grandchildren about the foundation scholarships—particularly for anyone planning to attend college during the 2018–2019 academic year.

Again, thanks for your strong and continuing support. **FRA**

By NEDE Joe Barnes

