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93rd Fleet Reserve Association  
National Convention

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION  
Tuesday, 5 October 2021

Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center  
1100 North Sullivan Road  
Spokane Valley, Washington

1           NP FULTON: Shipmate National Chaplain,  
2   you will reopen the Bible, and at this time we  
3   are going to re-perform the two bell ceremony  
4   because it was botched during opening ceremonies.

5           NCHAP GUNTHER: The toll of the ship's  
6   bell reminds us of the reverence we owe our  
7   departed shipmates and to those who guard the  
8   honor of our country upon the sea, under the sea,  
9   in the air and upon foreign soil. Let it be a  
10   reminder of the faith that resides in us. Let us  
11   who gather here not forget our obligations, and  
12   in silence breathe a prayer for our absent  
13   shipmates, each in his own words and -- excuse  
14   me -- each in his own words and each in his own  
15   way.

16           Bow your heads and let us pray, offering  
17   a silent prayer for our departed shipmates who  
18   are now serving on the staff of the Supreme  
19   Commander. This moment of reverence we dedicate  
20   to the memory of Shipmate Past National President  
21   Mark Kilgore, Shipmate Past National President

1 Richard "Dick" Smith.

2 NP FULTON: Amen.

3 Please stand and salute the Ensign.

4 Two.

5 I now declare the first business session  
6 of the 93rd National Convention of the Fleet  
7 Reserve Association regularly convened.

8 JPNP JANSKY: Shipmate National  
9 President, let the record show that the Junior  
10 Past National President is in the uniform of the  
11 day.

12 (Applause.)

13 NP FULTON: Noted.

14 Shipmates, our convention reporter, who  
15 is to the right of the rostrum behind the screen,  
16 he is plugged into the audio, is Robert Geier, if  
17 you happen to see him, and he's working with  
18 CRC-Salomon. The convention is being recorded.  
19 I want to remind all delegates that when  
20 addressing the chair on any matter, including the  
21 seconding of motions, you must speak into a

1 microphone and you must state your last name and  
2 branch number. The recording of this convention  
3 by electronic means, if you do not identify  
4 yourself, your name and branch and comments will  
5 not be recorded. Motions and seconds will not be  
6 recognized and accepted unless you make them into  
7 the microphone. Please keep sidebars to  
8 yourselves or during the breaks.

9 At this time I want to remind everybody  
10 to put your cell phones on vibrate or whatever,  
11 because it is a \$50 fine to the Treasury of the  
12 Fleet Reserve Association, and the treasurer, the  
13 finance officer is right there to accept them.

14 Shipmates, I have appointed as master at  
15 arms for the business session, I've actually got  
16 two of them, I've got Shipmate Ruiz from 101 West  
17 Coast, and Shipmate Chris Chapman, Regional Vice  
18 President Southwest, Branch 289.

19 (Applause.)

20 My appointee as timekeeper is Claire  
21 Purdy from Branch 24, most of you that have been

1 to a convention before recognize Claire.

2 (Applause.)

3 I do want to remind all delegates that  
4 when a matter is under discussion that you are  
5 limited to a maximum of three minutes speaking at  
6 the microphone and you must confine your remarks  
7 to the question. In addition, you may not speak  
8 a second time on any question until others  
9 privileged to speak and who desire to speak have  
10 done so. These rules are addressed in FRA  
11 Standing Rule 3.

12 Finance Officer, please call the roll of  
13 officers.

14 NFO REID: Roll of officers: National  
15 President Fulton.

16 NP FULTON: Present.

17 NFO REID: Finance Officer Reid, here.  
18 Junior Past National President Jansky.

19 JPNP JANSKY: Present.

20 NFO REID: Regional President  
21 Northeast/New England Zino.

1                    RPNENE ZINO:    Present.

2                    NFO REID:    Regional President East Coast

3    Jones.

4                    RPEC JONES:    Present.

5                    NFO REID:    Regional President Southeast

6    Gibson.

7                    RPSE GIBSON:    Present.

8                    NFO REID:    Regional President North

9    Central Lickteig.

10                    RPNC LICKTEIG:    Present.

11                    NFO REID:    Regional President South

12    Central Gruetzner.

13                    RPSC GRUETZNER:    Present.

14                    NFO REID:    Regional President Southwest

15    Bacud.

16                    RPSW BACUD:    Present.

17                    NFO REID:    Regional President West Coast

18    Hanzel.

19                    RPWC HANZEL:    Present.

20                    NFO REID:    Regional President Northwest

21    Hunt.

1 RPNW HUNT: Present.

2 NFO REID: National Parliamentarian  
3 Beese.

4 NPAR BEESE: Present.

5 NFO REID: National Chaplain Gunther.

6 NCHAP GUNTHER: Present.

7 NFO REID: National President, the roll  
8 has been called.

9 NP FULTON: For those of you that do not  
10 know or were not aware of the fact, the NED and  
11 the National Vice President are excused from the  
12 convention due to health reasons.

13 We will now -- do we -- is Shipmate  
14 Lazzaretti here? I knew he was missing one of  
15 the regions, so we'll go ahead and hold off on  
16 the credentials report until we have the  
17 credentials chair here.

18 Okay. At this time I'm going to go  
19 ahead and have the finance officer read a couple  
20 of letters of well wishes for the convention.

21 NFO REID: To the National Executive

1 Director of the Fleet Reserve Association:

2 It is my honor to congratulate members  
3 of the Fleet Reserve Association, FRA, on the  
4 93rd FRA and the 88th Ladies Auxiliary of the FRA  
5 convention which I understand will take place in  
6 October.

7 I want to thank the FRA for its tireless  
8 advocacy and support of our U.S. Coast Guard,  
9 Navy and Marine Corps members and veterans, and  
10 especially for its dedicated support of HR 6072,  
11 the Coast Guard Retirement Parity Act, which was  
12 ultimately incorporated in the 2021 National  
13 Defense Authorization Bill, NDAA. Through the  
14 2021 NDAA, Coast Guard military retirees now have  
15 the same protection as their Department of  
16 Defense counterparts and will continue to receive  
17 timely pay and benefits regardless of any lapse  
18 in annual appropriations.

19 I also applaud the accomplishments and  
20 continuing effort of the FRA in conjunction with  
21 the Military Coalition in addressing critical

1 military personnel policy, benefits and  
2 compensation issues.

3 I hope that your 2021 convention is  
4 successful and highly productive. Once again,  
5 thank you for the FRA's continued support of the  
6 U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps service  
7 members and veterans. Sincerely, Alejandro  
8 Mayorkas, Secretary, Homeland Security.

9 (Applause.)

10 To the National Executive Director of  
11 the Fleet Reserve Association: I write to offer  
12 greetings to all Fleet Reserve Association  
13 members attending the association's 93rd National  
14 Convention this October 5 through 8, 2021 in  
15 Spokane Valley, Washington. The enlisted  
16 personnel of America's sea services, the U.S.  
17 Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard make  
18 crucial contributions to the nation's security  
19 during wartime and peacetime, and I and my  
20 colleagues in Congress are grateful for your  
21 service and sacrifice.

1                   As chair of the House Armed Services  
2 Subcommittee on Military Personnel, I am  
3 especially aware of the impact that the high  
4 tempo has on service members and military  
5 families, especially during the COVID-19  
6 pandemic, which has created additional hardships.  
7 I am concerned that the combination of high OPT,  
8 MTO and undermanning on ships poses unacceptable  
9 risks to our service members, and I offered NDAA  
10 provisions to address undermanning on ships and  
11 service member fatigue across all military  
12 services.

13                  Further, I have been working for more  
14 than a decade to address and discourage sexual  
15 harassment and sexual harassment in the military.  
16 We must establish a culture within the military  
17 where no forms of sexual violence are tolerated  
18 and perpetrators are held accountable. The House  
19 version of the NDAA includes groundbreaking  
20 provisions to move persecution decisions in  
21 special victim offenses from commanders to

1 specialized military prosecutors. This reform  
2 among others that I have offered are essential  
3 steps to protect service members from those who  
4 would violate them. Quality of life benefits are  
5 not just to have, nice to have, those are  
6 essential to attracting and retaining service  
7 members who make our military the greatest in the  
8 world.

9 That's why I am also working to expand  
10 parental leave, increase access to childcare and  
11 improve health care for service members and  
12 military families. Thanks to you and your  
13 families for your contributions to the nation and  
14 its security. I wish you a successful  
15 conference. Signed, Jackie Speier, Member of  
16 Congress.

17 (Applause.)

18 NP FULTON: Shipmate Credentials Chair,  
19 do you have the first credentials report ready?

20 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National  
21 President, yes I do. May I approach the rostrum?

1 NP FULTON: You may.

2 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Your credentials  
3 reports are in the back of your delegate kit.

4 Good afternoon, shipmates. For those of  
5 you who keep forgetting who I am as hard as it  
6 may be, I am Shipmate Past Regional President  
7 Northwest Pete Lazzaretti from Seattle Branch 18,  
8 and here is the information for your first  
9 credentials report:

10 The authorized voting strength for this  
11 year's convention is 975. The number of branches  
12 represented by delegates is 36. The number of  
13 votes represented by delegates is 336. The  
14 number of branches registered by proxy is 105.  
15 The number of votes registered by proxy is 567.  
16 The number of branches not represented or  
17 registered is 28, including one that we received  
18 credentials for with no delegates or proxies  
19 listed. And we have one branch where the proxy  
20 has not yet signed for it.

21 The following, number of delegates

1 registered is 74. The registered voting strength  
2 is 903. The number of votes not registered is  
3 72. Two-thirds vote is 602. The majority vote  
4 is 453.

5 I am now going to read off the branches  
6 starting with Branch 1, credentials received.  
7 Branch 2, credentials received. Excuse me,  
8 Branch 4, it's my second line. For some strange  
9 reason the caffeine isn't working yet today. So  
10 Branch 4, credentials received, yes. Branch 6,  
11 merged with Branch 212 per NBR 16-20.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 6 is probably  
13 taken out of there because the credentials, if  
14 you see a shaded area, don't even address it.

15 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Okay. Branch 8 is  
16 here. Branch 11 is here. Branch 12, no  
17 credentials. Branch 13 is represented by proxy.  
18 Branch 14 is represented by delegates. Branch  
19 15, represented by proxy. Branch 17, registered  
20 by proxy. Branch 18, registered by delegate.  
21 Branch 20, registered by delegate. Branch 22,

1 represented by proxy. Branch 23, represented by  
2 delegate. Branch 24 is represented by delegate.  
3 Do you have 25 and 28 on your lists?

4 VOICES: No.

5 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Okay. Branch 29  
6 is -- we just did 24. You're here, right? She's  
7 from 24, by the way.

8 Branch 29, no credentials received.  
9 Branch 31, represented by delegate. Branch 32,  
10 Lake of the Ozarks, our brand new branch is  
11 represented by delegate. Branch 34, by proxy.  
12 Branch 37, by proxy. Branch 38 is here in force  
13 by delegate. Branch 40, represented by delegate.  
14 Branch 41, represented by proxy. Branch 42,  
15 represented by proxy. Branch 44, registered by  
16 proxy. Branch 46, charter revoked per NBR 22-21,  
17 NBR 22-21, Branch 46.

18 Branch 47, represented by proxy. Branch  
19 49, represented by delegates. Branch 51, charter  
20 revoked per NBR 19-21. Branch 53, represented by  
21 proxy. Branch 54, represented by proxy. Branch

1 55, represented by proxy. Branch 57, represented  
2 by proxy. Branch 59, represented by proxy.  
3 Branch 60, represented by proxy. Branch 61,  
4 represented by delegate. Branch 62, by proxy.  
5 Branch 63, no credentials received. Branch 64,  
6 is it on your list? Okay.

7 Branch 67, represented by proxy. Branch  
8 68, represented by proxy. Branch 70, represented  
9 by proxy. Branch 72, represented by proxy.  
10 Branch 73, no credentials received. Branch 74,  
11 no credentials received. Branch 84, represented  
12 by proxy. Branch 85, represented by delegate.  
13 Branch 86, represented by proxy. Branch 87,  
14 proxy. Branch 89, proxy. Branch 90, proxy.  
15 Branch 91, proxy. Branch 92, proxy. Branch 93,  
16 delegate. Branch 94, delegate. Branch 97,  
17 delegate. Branch 98, proxy. Branch 99,  
18 delegate. Branch 101, delegate. Branch 102, no  
19 credentials received. Branch 103, no credentials  
20 received. Branch 104, by delegate. Branch 105,  
21 by proxy. Branch 106, by proxy. Branch 109

1 merged with Branch 102 per NBR 20-21. Branch  
2 112, represented by delegate. Branch 113, by  
3 proxy. Branch 115, by proxy. Branch 117, by  
4 proxy. Branch 118, no credentials received.  
5 Branch 123, no credentials received. Branch 124,  
6 by proxy. Branch 126, by delegate. Branch 127,  
7 by proxy. Branch 130, by proxy. Branch 136, by  
8 proxy. Branch 137, by proxy. Branch 144, excuse  
9 me, 141, charter surrendered per NBR 20-20.  
10 Branch 145, by proxy -- no, excuse me, 145, no  
11 credentials received. 146, by proxy. 147,  
12 charter surrendered per NBR 24-20. 154,  
13 represented by proxy. 156, by proxy. 159, by  
14 delegate. 161, by delegates. 162, no  
15 credentials received. 163, by proxy. Branch  
16 166, by proxy. Branch 170, by proxy. Branch  
17 171, no credentials received. Branch 172, by  
18 proxy. Branch 174, by proxy. Branch 177, by  
19 proxy. Branch 178, by proxy. Branch 181, by  
20 delegate. Branch 182, by delegate. Branch 183,  
21 by proxy. Branch 184, by proxy. Branch 185, by

1 proxy. Branch 186, no credentials received.

2 Branch 187, by proxy. Branch 188, by proxy.

3 Branch 192, by delegate. Branch 194, by proxy.

4 Branch 197, by delegate.

5 Branch 201, by delegate. Branch 207, by

6 proxy. 208, by proxy. Branch 210, no

7 credentials received. Branch 212, by proxy.

8 Branch 214, by delegate. Branch 216, by proxy.

9 And actually, a correction on 188, credentials

10 received, no delegate or proxy designated.

11 The last one I gave I believe was 216,

12 by proxy. 219, proxy. 217, sorry, charter

13 surrendered per NBR 20-21. 219, by proxy. 221,

14 by proxy. 222, by proxy. 223, by proxy. 226,

15 by delegate. 227, no credentials received. 230,

16 by delegate. 232, by proxy. 238, by proxy.

17 242, by proxy. 244, by proxy. 245, charter

18 surrendered per NBR 23-21. Branch 247, no

19 credentials received. Branch 248, no credentials

20 received. Branch 250, no credentials received.

21 251, by proxy. Do you have 254 on your list?

1 Merged with Branch 269 per NBR 38-20.

2 256, by proxy. 258, by proxy. 259, no

3 credentials received. 260, merged with Branch 90

4 per NBR 40-20. Branch 261, by proxy. Branch

5 263, no credentials received. Branch 254, by

6 proxy -- 2-6-4 by proxy. 268, by proxy. 269, by

7 proxy. 273, no credentials received. 274, by

8 proxy. 275, by proxy. 276, by proxy. 281, by

9 proxy. 282, charter surrendered per NBR 39-20.

10 285 -- okay, that's already done. 287,

11 represented by delegate. 289, are you here,

12 represented by delegate. 290, represented by

13 delegate. 291, charter surrendered per NBR

14 12-21. 293, represented by delegate. 292, no

15 credential received. 293, by delegate. 294, by

16 delegate. 295, by proxy. 298, by delegate.

17 301, received, no proxy signed for.

18 That's you, Penny. 302, by delegate. 307, no

19 credential received. 309, by proxy. 310, by

20 proxy. 311, by proxy. 316, by proxy.

21 315? It does not exist on my list.

1 Theresa, did we have any actions on 215, excuse  
2 me, 315? Okay. I don't have it on my list for  
3 whatever reason.

4 316, by proxy. 328, by proxy. 334, by  
5 proxy. 335, by delegate; Bob, are you here? Of  
6 course you are. 342, excuse me, 339, no  
7 credential received. 342, by proxy. Down to the  
8 last stretch. 346, no credentials received.  
9 358, okay. 364, represented by proxy. 367,  
10 proxy. 371, proxy. Okay, that one is still in  
11 there, charter suspended per NBR 24-19. 371, by  
12 proxy. 377, by proxy. 382, by delegate.

13 Are there any questions? Shipmate  
14 National President, I request that this report be  
15 received. On behalf of the committee, I move  
16 that the roll of delegates hereby submitted to be  
17 the official roll of the voting members of this  
18 convention.

19 PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate National  
20 President, question.

21 NP FULTON: Shipmate at the rear mic,

1 identify yourself.

2 PRPNC COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch  
3 161. Could you run that majority vote by me  
4 again? I seem to come up with a lower number by  
5 one.

6 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Well, voting strength  
7 is 975. Majority vote, 453.

8 NP FULTON: That's one more than  
9 452-and-a-half, which is --

10 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Because registered  
11 voting strength is 903 --

12 NP FULTON: Or 903, yeah, not 975.

13 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Registered voting  
14 strength is 903. Authorized voting strength is  
15 975.

16 PRPNC COMBS: We go by the registered.

17 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Registered voting  
18 strength, again, Shipmate, is 903.

19 PRPNC COMBS: And the majority vote is  
20 --

21 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 453.

1 PRPNC COMBS: -- 452 according to my  
2 calculator.

3 NP FULTON: It should be 452, 452 adds  
4 up to 904.

5 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: You are correct,  
6 Shipmate Past Regional President Combs.

7 PRPNC COMBS: Thank you.

8 NP FULTON: Okay. We have a motion to  
9 accept the first credentials report. I don't  
10 have a second yet.

11 NCHAP GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate,  
12 Branch 182, second.

13 NP FULTON: All right, we have a motion  
14 and a second. Is there any further discussion?

15 Just for general knowledge, the  
16 credential reports from here on out will not be  
17 as lengthy, he will give the numbers and he will  
18 give any change to the list of branches. That  
19 way there, we don't spent 15 minutes on the  
20 delegate report every session.

21 Shipmate at the rear mic.

1 S/M CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 14  
2 Delegate. I added up all the numbers of votes  
3 and I come up with 97 and not 70 what, two?

4 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Okay. 903 plus the  
5 72 equals the authorized voting strength of 975.

6 S/M CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

7 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 72 votes not  
8 registered. Taken away from the authorized  
9 voting strength of 975, and the drum roll says  
10 72.

11 S/M CUNNINGHAM: Okay, but I added up 97  
12 because I was keeping tally as you were saying  
13 which branches did not register.

14 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Remember, we still  
15 have a discrepancy with Branch 315 not being on  
16 the list, so the headquarters staff will, we'll  
17 have that for the second credentials report.  
18 Does that answer your question, Marsha?

19 Shipmate at the rear mic.

20 S/M BLACKBURN: Shipmate National  
21 President to the Credential Report Chairman,

1 Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 8. Did you designate  
2 a time for the first credentials report? Would  
3 you please?

4 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: As of 1315 on this  
5 day, October 5th, 2021.

6 NP FULTON: There is your time and date  
7 of the first credentials report. Any further  
8 discussion? All in favor?

9 (Chorus of ayes.)

10 Opposed? Carried.

11 Thank you, Shipmate Chairman, we'll look  
12 forward to your report tomorrow morning.

13 Shipmates, we will now have the  
14 presentation of the annual reports of national  
15 officers in accordance with 612.A CMBL FRA. All  
16 recommendations contained in these reports must  
17 have been previously submitted under 611 CMBL  
18 FRA. Standing Rule 3 refers and applies. All of  
19 these reports have been submitted in writing,  
20 typewritten, and are included in the delegate  
21 kits that each of you have.

1           To expedite the order of business this  
2           afternoon, I ask that all national officers  
3           submit their reports for the record and confine  
4           their remarks to summarizing the highlights of  
5           your report and additional remarks necessary to  
6           supplement information on your report, in other  
7           words, if there's been any amendments or  
8           anything. You may render your reports from the  
9           podium or from a floor microphone as desired.

10           I will commence with my report. My  
11           report is included in the delegate kit under the  
12           very first report of the national officers as the  
13           national president, Tab A. Is my report not in  
14           the delegate kit? All right.

15           I move that my report be received as  
16           written.

17           S/M HANZEK: Hanzek, Delegate, 126,  
18           second.

19           NP FULTON: Shipmate National Vice, his  
20           report is included under Tab B. He is not  
21           present to request his report be accepted, but I

1 will -- what's that? No, we don't have the Zoom  
2 capability, so Shipmate Phelps was his designated  
3 proxy, or actually Shipmate Past Regional  
4 President East Coast Phillips, would you like to  
5 request that his report be received as written?

6 PRPEC PHILLIPS: Shipmate Phillips, Past  
7 Regional President East Coast, Branch 182  
8 Delegate, make a motion that we accept the  
9 National Vice President's in Tab B report. I  
10 didn't say that right, did I? Move that it be  
11 received. I make a motion, move that it be  
12 received. What did I do wrong? Oh, move that it  
13 be received.

14 NP FULTON: Thank you.

15 S/M HANZEK: Hanzek, Delegate, 126,  
16 seconds.

17 NP FULTON: Thanks, received. All  
18 right. I don't -- we don't need to do discussion  
19 on reports, right? All in favor?

20 (Chorus of ayes.)

21 Opposed? Carried.

1 Shipmate Junior Past.

2 JPNP JANSKY: Shipmate National  
3 President, my report is in Tab E and I move that  
4 my report be received.

5 PRPNC COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch  
6 161, second.

7 NP FULTON: The motion is seconded. Any  
8 discussion? All in favor?

9 (Chorus of ayes.)

10 Opposed? Okay. I skipped one, I'm  
11 going to go ahead and turn this over to Shipmate  
12 Finance Officer Reid.

13 NFO REID: The finance officer report is  
14 in Tab D, delta. I know it may be quite long but  
15 what I wanted to make sure is that everyone here  
16 and the organization have all the financials from  
17 2018 through June of 2021. So I move that my  
18 report as written and presented be accepted, be  
19 received.

20 NP FULTON: Shipmate at the rear mic.

21 JPPSW CORNELL: Cornell, Junior Past

1 Southwest Region, Delegate, seconds.

2 NP FULTON: Motion and second, any  
3 discussion? All in favor?

4 (Chorus of ayes.)

5 Opposed?

6 JPPSW CORNELL: Shipmate National  
7 President.

8 NP FULTON: Yes?

9 JPPSW CORNELL: Cornell, Junior Past  
10 Southwest Region, Delegate. I do not believe we  
11 have the aye and nay votes for your report, you  
12 went right write from your report to the National  
13 Vice President's.

14 NP FULTON: All right. Technically when  
15 receiving reports a vote is not required, it's  
16 basically to receive the report for the record,  
17 so there realistically isn't any vote required on  
18 reports.

19 And the National Executive Director's  
20 report is in Tab C. I as the National President  
21 will request in his absence that his report be

1 received, in Tab C.

2 S/M CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 14,  
3 second.

4 NP FULTON: All right, motion and  
5 second, thank you. Received.

6 Okay. Regional President, Northeast/New  
7 England Zino.

8 RPNENE ZINO: Shipmate National  
9 President.

10 NP FULTON: Yes?

11 RPNENE ZINO: Zino, Delegate, Branch 23,  
12 Northeast/New England Regional President. I move  
13 that my report be received as written.

14 NP FULTON: And that is in Tab F, for  
15 the delegates?

16 RPNENE ZINO: Tab F, that is correct,  
17 Shipmate National President.

18 NP FULTON: Come on, folks, have  
19 somebody stand up to be ready.

20 S/M CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 14,  
21 second.

1                   NP FULTON: All right, motion and a  
2 second to receive the report of the  
3 Northeast/New England Regional President.

4                   Regional President East Coast Jones.

5                   RPEC JONES: Shipmate National  
6 President, Delegate Jones, Branch 93. As  
7 Regional President East Coast I move that my  
8 report be received as contained in Tab F.

9                   S/M MURRAY: Murray, Delegate, Branch  
10 40, seconds.

11                  NP FULTON: Motion and a second to  
12 receive the report of the East Coast Regional  
13 President as per Tab F.

14                  Regional President Southeast Gibson.

15                  RPSE GIBSON: Shipmate National  
16 President, my report's in Tab F. I move that it  
17 be received.

18                  S/M HANZEK: Hanzek, Delegate, 126,  
19 seconds.

20                  NP FULTON: Motion and a second to  
21 receive the report of the Southeast Regional

1 President.

2 Regional President North Central

3 Lickteig.

4 RPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate Lickteig,  
5 Delegate, Branch 161. I make a motion that my,  
6 move that my report be received as written in  
7 Tab F.

8 S/M CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 14,  
9 second.

10 NP FULTON: Motion and second to receive  
11 the report of the North Central Regional  
12 President.

13 Regional President South Central  
14 Gruetzner.

15 RPSC GRUETZNER: National President,  
16 Regional President South Central Cathleen Ursula  
17 Gruetzner moves that her report be received as  
18 written in Tab F.

19 S/M TALBOT: Talbot, Delegate, Branch  
20 159, seconds.

21 NP FULTON: Moved and seconded to

1 receive the report of the South Central Regional  
2 President.

3 Regional President Southwest Bacud.

4 RPSW BACUD: Shipmate National  
5 President, Bacud, Branch 85 delegate. I move  
6 that my report which is in Tab F be received.

7 S/M CHAPMAN: Chapman, Branch 289  
8 Delegate, I second.

9 NP FULTON: It's been moved and seconded  
10 to receive the report of the Southwest Regional  
11 President.

12 Regional President West Coast Hanzel.

13 RPWC HANZEL: Regional President Hanzel,  
14 Branch 230, I move that my report be received as  
15 written.

16 S/M (Name inaudible): -- Branch 32,  
17 seconds.

18 NP FULTON: Moved and seconded to  
19 receive the report of the West Coast Regional  
20 President.

21 Regional President Northwest Hunt.

1 RPNW HUNT: Delegate Hunt, Branch 382,  
2 Northwest Regional President, I move that my  
3 written report under Tab F be accepted, received.

4 PNP JOHNSON: Johnson, Delegate, 104,  
5 second.

6 NP FULTON: It's been moved and seconded  
7 to receive the report of the Northwest Regional  
8 President.

9 Shipmate National Chaplain Gunther.

10 NCHAP GUNTHER: Shipmate National  
11 President, Gunther, Delegate, Branch 182. I move  
12 that my report be received in Tab G as written.

13 S/M TULAT (Phonetic): Branch 24  
14 Delegate Tulat, second.

15 NP FULTON: It's been moved and seconded  
16 to receive the report of the National Chaplain.

17 Shipmates, those are the reports of the  
18 national officers.

19 At this time it is about time for a  
20 ten-minute recess.

21 S/M PHILLIPS: Shipmate National

1 President.

2 NP FULTON: Yes, shipmate at the rear  
3 mic.

4 S/M PHILLIPS: Phillips, Delegate,  
5 Branch 182. I have a cell phone here that was  
6 left at the desk of credentials. Anybody missing  
7 a cell phone I have it right here, I don't know  
8 whose it is. That's all I got. I don't know  
9 whose it is.

10 NP FULTON: It doesn't identify, all  
11 right. It may be the auxiliary too, you may want  
12 to swing by there on a break and see whether or  
13 not -- I'm sure that it's probably one of the  
14 auxiliary members.

15 Shipmate National Chaplain, close the  
16 Bible please.

17 NCHAP GUNTHER: Uncover. Shipmate  
18 National President, the Bible is closed.

19 NP FULTON: We stand in recess until  
20 1415.

21 (Recess.)

1                   NP FULTON: Shipmate Chaplain, if you  
2 will open the Bible.

3                   NCHAP GUNTHER: Shipmate National  
4 President, the Bible is open.

5                   NP FULTON: Okay, shipmates. Make sure  
6 that we keep this moving, when I say a time for  
7 the recess to be over with, I expect people to be  
8 back in the room.

9                   All right, at this time I'm going to go  
10 ahead and request that those individuals that are  
11 in the, getting with the tux vendors, they are  
12 going to be here at 3:15 in the front lobby. Oh,  
13 their ride to the tux, so you will get your ride  
14 to the tux vendor and they'll do all the  
15 measurements, whatever they need to and then  
16 they'll bring you back.

17                   So my intent is to go ahead and allow  
18 Shipmate Davis from the legislative staff at  
19 headquarters to give the FRA legislative agenda  
20 update. I will before we close go ahead and make  
21 sure that the committee chairs know who they are,

1 because there are some committee chairs who are  
2 not here and if the chair did not get with  
3 somebody on their committee to appoint them as a  
4 chair, then I will make sure that that is done,  
5 so that we can move on with business tomorrow.  
6 Shipmate Davis.

7 S/M DAVIS: Good afternoon, shipmates,  
8 can you hear me? All right.

9 I'm here to provide you with the  
10 legislative update of what's going on. First of  
11 all I want to talk about our legislative team,  
12 first of all I'd like to welcome also and tell  
13 you we have a government affairs committee, I  
14 call it, it's the National Committee on  
15 Legislative Service and they meet twice a year  
16 and they develop, they help us stay on course  
17 with FRA policy. The committee consists of Chris  
18 Slawinski and also Past Regional President  
19 Southeast Frederic Bowles from Branch 269, Past  
20 Regional President Northwest Tom Brannick from  
21 Branch 382, Past Regional President Northeast/New

1 England James Brown from Branch 226, Past  
2 Regional President North Central Barry White from  
3 Branch 161, and Past Regional President West  
4 Coast William Matthews from Branch 187, and  
5 finally, Past Regional President Southwest Bruce  
6 Davis from Branch 70. That's your legislative  
7 team and they work with us to put together the  
8 legislative agenda and give us their advice.

9 The legislative team consists of myself,  
10 John Davis, Chris Slawinski, Assistant Director  
11 of Legislative Programs Theo Lawson, and  
12 Assistant Director of Veterans Programs Noel  
13 Huffer.

14 We've been very much involved over the  
15 years since 1985 with the military coalition,  
16 which is a group of about 35 organizations that  
17 primarily have the same agenda and we work  
18 together, we share information to get things  
19 done. That's been around since 1985, that was  
20 created as a result of the Gramm-Rudman Bill, I  
21 don't know if you remember that, they wanted to

1 cap spending, and everyone thought that it would  
2 cut a lot of military benefits as a result of  
3 that change. Okay, next slide.

4 So Chris Slawinski, as you know, he's  
5 cochair of the Military Coalition Guard and  
6 Reserve and Veterans Committee. He also does  
7 veteran issues, he's also by the way an NVSO and  
8 he deals with reserve issues. When I say veteran  
9 issues I'm talking about toxic exposure, that's a  
10 really big item on Capitol Hill right now.

11 There's a bill in both houses, in fact both bills  
12 have gotten out of their committees of origin and  
13 they're apparently very expensive and so there's  
14 been a delay in moving them forward.

15 Also when I talk about veteran issues  
16 I'm talking about homelessness, which is still a  
17 problem; suicide, which depending on who you talk  
18 to may be a little better; and also we deal with  
19 the cost of spending of the Department of  
20 Veterans Affairs which includes its budget. And  
21 the Biden administration's first budget for the

1 VA actually increased it by ten percent, which is  
2 a very very healthy increase. And by the way,  
3 the Build Back Better Act which is that \$3.5  
4 trillion mega spending bill, we've been watching  
5 it and for a long time it didn't have anything we  
6 cared about, but one of its latest versions  
7 includes 18 billion more dollars for the  
8 Department of Veterans Affairs, most of it goes  
9 for infrastructure, so building new buildings. I  
10 don't know if a lot of you've been in a lot of  
11 these VAs but a lot of them look pretty, at least  
12 the ones I've been in look pretty dilapidated,  
13 pretty old, like they were built in the '50s or  
14 the '40s, and so the veterans committee in both  
15 the House and the Senate are starting to look at  
16 we've got to replace these buildings and make  
17 them new infrastructure, so that's going to be a  
18 big issue. Chris also deals with reserve  
19 component issues.

20 I myself, I'm cochair of the TMC Retiree  
21 Policy Committee, which I think everyone's

1 interested in, retirement policy, and I kind of  
2 really cover the waterfront as director of  
3 legislative programs and I deal with the spending  
4 bills which, we really haven't gotten any  
5 spending bills passed, and appropriations bills,  
6 so we had to pass a continuing resolution which  
7 flat lines spending, they had to pass it by  
8 October 1 and they did, and it lasts until  
9 December 3rd, okay?

10 We're also of course monitoring the  
11 National Defense Authorization Act, the House has  
12 passed their version of the bill, the senate  
13 committee has approved its version and it's  
14 sitting out on the senate floor waiting for that  
15 to be acted upon. Both bills have issues we  
16 really care about such as pay, both bills provide  
17 inadequate pay increases, which our keynote  
18 speaker was talking about this morning, the  
19 employment cost index, which is a 2.7 percent  
20 increase for active duty. Both bills have what  
21 they call a basic allowance, a basic needs

1 allowance they call it, which is for people that  
2 are junior enlisted and have kids, they're  
3 actually under the poverty level with their pay,  
4 they give them a little more pay, and that's in  
5 both bills.

6 No Tricare fee increases in either bill  
7 at this point, so -- in the bills.

8 Also, the senate bill has not been acted  
9 upon, right, the senate still has to act on it,  
10 and we're working on some amendments. We've got  
11 a commitment from Senator Tester from Montana,  
12 that he will file an amendment for concurrent  
13 receipt for the Senate and VA bill. And also our  
14 bill, our final month's pay bill that I've talked  
15 to you about before, that also is going to be  
16 filed as an amendment.

17 So -- and we're also hoping for another  
18 amendment, I haven't confirmed this yet but we  
19 want -- right now in law, if you're a retiree and  
20 you get out of the military, you can't work at  
21 the Pentagon as a civilian for 180 days, you have

1 to wait 180 days, and we're working on this, so  
2 there may be an amendment on that as well for  
3 that Senate NDAA, okay?

4 Obviously I deal a lot with concurrent  
5 receipts as head of the retiree committee and I  
6 will talk about that a little bit more. We're  
7 working on Tricare fee increases. I'm also on  
8 the TMC health care committee and we've been  
9 working on that. We deal with, I deal with  
10 active duty issues as well. What does that mean?  
11 Pay and BAH and housing, basically that's what  
12 that comes down to, and we've been working on  
13 those issues. I do, I put the stuff, the issues  
14 on the action center, I write the news bites and  
15 I write the testimony, just so you know, and so  
16 that keeps the association going in government  
17 affairs. Next one.

18 Theo Lawson is also our assistant  
19 director of legislative programs and he's  
20 involved with the TMC, he's on the veterans  
21 committee and the personnel committee which does

1 active duty issues. He's also involved with  
2 veterans toxic exposure, and FRA is involved with  
3 a coalition called TEAM which is the Toxic  
4 Exposure of the American Military coalition, and  
5 we're working trying to get a big comprehensive  
6 toxic exposure bill.

7 As you guys remember, we passed the  
8 Agent Orange Blue Water Navy bill. That just  
9 dealt with sailors, that just dealt with the  
10 sailors during the Vietnam War. This one's going  
11 to cover everybody, anybody, to that will cover  
12 like burn pits, people in Iraq and all that,  
13 including my son who was in Afghanistan, I was  
14 talking to him and I was saying were you around  
15 any burn pits, and he was like yeah, all the  
16 time, you know. It's really amazing, you know,  
17 if you talk to some Marines in these bases in  
18 this day and age, that they said you'd walk into  
19 base and it would be like a fog over the base,  
20 and they'd say what's causing the fog, and they'd  
21 go oh, they're burning stuff, toxic stuff outside

1 the gate, and they didn't even realize, gee, that  
2 these people are breathing that stuff in, it's  
3 really amazing in this day and age.

4 But anyway, so he's involved with that  
5 and as I said, personnel issues. He's a VSO and  
6 he's also involved in our veterans service  
7 foundation and our FRA's veterans committee.

8 And of course, Noel, I'll just do it,  
9 she's here if, I hope everybody's met her. She's  
10 the assistant director of veterans programs and  
11 she's also on the TMC veterans committee and the  
12 survivors committee. She's been very involved  
13 with the VA Cares Giver program. There was a VA  
14 Cares Giver program started back after 9/11,  
15 which basically took care of people that were  
16 catastrophically injured after 9/11, and we  
17 thought that's a great program but why just after  
18 9/11. We have a bunch of Vietnam veterans and  
19 other people walking around that are seriously  
20 injured and their spouses or their uncle, their  
21 brother or sister are taking care of them and

1 they need help too. And this program is a really  
2 nice program, the person who takes care of them,  
3 they train them, they pay them, and it's a very  
4 good program. The problem was, we just wanted to  
5 take out, you know, anybody that was injured  
6 after 9/11, just anybody that was injured. They  
7 didn't want to do it that way, they have three  
8 separate programs now, one for people before  
9 1975, for people between '75 and 9/11, and then  
10 for people after 9/11, the old program. Why they  
11 did it that way, I'm not really sure, but we have  
12 three separate programs with three slightly  
13 different benefits, and to me it's a mess, it's a  
14 mess. So we're working on that, though, and  
15 we're trying to get that implemented, and that's  
16 an important bill.

17 We work very closely with the Elizabeth  
18 Dole Foundation, she's been very active in  
19 helping us with that as well.

20 We also deal with survivor issues and  
21 I'll get into some of that later on. Noel is

1 also a VSO, she's also involved with the Veterans  
2 Service Foundation and she's involved with the  
3 FRA's veterans committee.

4 I just want to tell you, so it's now  
5 down to testimony, we didn't think we were going  
6 to have many opportunities to testify due to the  
7 pandemic, there was a lot of restrictions, it was  
8 very difficult to lobby when you can't go over to  
9 Capitol Hill, but we tried to do the best we can.  
10 Our National President Mick Fulton testified on  
11 March 18th, did a really good job representing  
12 us, it was on a Zoom meeting, he didn't actually  
13 go over to the Capitol, he was on a Zoom, but he  
14 did a really good job.

15 We've also put testimony in to the  
16 Senate Armed Services Committee personnel  
17 subcommittee on the Defense Authorization and  
18 also the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on  
19 toxic exposure, we put a statement on that, and  
20 we also sent a letter to the chairman and the  
21 ranking member of the House Appropriations

1 Committee on defense, on the defense budget, so  
2 three of the four of those are statements, we  
3 didn't get to actually testify, but we're hoping  
4 to keep our name in front of the committee staff  
5 so when they do start allowing testimony again  
6 we'll be invited back, okay, that's the plan.

7           One of the big issues of course for us  
8 is health care -- can you switch, Noel? And  
9 first I would like to ask, how many people here  
10 are on Tricare Select? Anybody, one, okay, a  
11 few, okay. I just wondered because you know,  
12 they just recently passed the Tricare fee  
13 increase for them, it's \$12.50 a month, and  
14 somebody ran out and actually, Senator Tester  
15 from Montana put a bill in to repeal that, those  
16 increases. That's not the way we wanted it to  
17 go, if we were going to cut something we would  
18 have loved to have a bill that would cut the  
19 future pharmacy co-pay increases that are going  
20 to keep going on until 2027, so every two years  
21 you're going to get an increase, and that's based

1 on the FY 2017 Defense Authorization bill. But  
2 anyway, that got put in and we're supporting it  
3 but it hasn't gotten a lot of interest.

4 The other thing that we're very  
5 concerned about are drastic cuts to the medical  
6 staff that they propose, so not only do they want  
7 you to pay more, they want to cut your services,  
8 so we've been opposing that. They wanted to cut  
9 18,000 originally, they delayed it for over a  
10 year now, and the House Defense Authorization  
11 bill that passed, that actually has a provision  
12 that makes them wait another before they can make  
13 any cuts. Since then by the way, the Defense  
14 Health Agency, the people who run Tricare, have  
15 come out and said well, maybe we don't need  
16 18,000, maybe we can just get by with 12,000 cut,  
17 so they're getting the message that Congress  
18 isn't really keen on him cutting huge numbers of  
19 staff.

20 I mentioned in here too the CSIS, that's  
21 the Center for Strategic and International

1 Studies, that's a think tank, it's sort of a left  
2 of center Washington think tank that recently put  
3 out a study which says military people are  
4 getting paid way too much money, retirees have  
5 too many benefits, especially health care, and if  
6 we're going to get this budget under control  
7 we've got to start looking at those things. So  
8 all I can tell you is this, this and other  
9 organizations are tied in with Capitol Hill  
10 politicians, and if they're putting out something  
11 like that because they're thinking along those  
12 lines themselves, so this is sort of a warning  
13 that at some point I think Congress is going to  
14 say you know, we've got to really look at cutting  
15 all these costs and we're going to need to, you  
16 know, keep the pressure up on these grassroots  
17 programs. We really believe, you know, I'm sure  
18 you know that we think health care benefits  
19 should reflect the extraordinary sacrifice of 20  
20 years of service that military people have put  
21 in.

1           I tried to explain to legislators up  
2 there it's like apples to oranges. Because  
3 they'll come to us and they'll say, you know,  
4 civilians are getting killed with health care  
5 costs, health care costs are going up like crazy  
6 in the civilian world and you guys, you know, you  
7 guys have got to let it go up too, and we say no,  
8 it's an apples to oranges comparison. That's  
9 part of your pay for serving 20 years of arduous  
10 military service, and that that should be -- in  
11 fact a lot of you, myself when I was in the  
12 Marines, were told you stay in 20 years, you get  
13 free health care, does everybody remember that?

14           (Chorus of yes from the audience.)

15           Yeah, free health care if you stay in 20  
16 years, and of course that didn't happen. And by  
17 the way that did go to court, that actually went  
18 to court, it actually was in a couple pamphlets  
19 that said that, and the Court ruled that a  
20 pamphlet is not a contract and when you sign a  
21 contract it's the fine print there that counts,

1 not the pamphlet. So anyway, we're strongly  
2 comitted to trying to make sure that the health  
3 care that you have continues because we think  
4 you've earned it.

5           The other issue, this is a big issue,  
6 concurrent receipts. There's a bunch of bills in  
7 HR 303, and it's 1147, they deal with people that  
8 are noncombat related injuries less than 50  
9 percent. Those have been in, those are  
10 perennials. Also HR 333, easy to remember,  
11 that's one we like, if we could pass that we'd be  
12 done, because that does, covers everybody,  
13 everybody would get concurrent receipts. And  
14 then the other one is the Major Richard Starr Act  
15 which is just for those over those that are 61,  
16 served less than 20 years that were injured and  
17 retired and were combat related, that is in the  
18 combat zone, they were hurt in combat, they will  
19 get concurrent receipts. That's where we kind of  
20 made our stand because it costs less than a lot  
21 of the others, we're working on cosponsors, we

1 have 122 House cosponsors and 51 Senate sponsors,  
2 and we're, the action of course is with  
3 amendments, and there was a House amendment filed  
4 by our sponsor and it did not get called when the  
5 House passed the NDAA. The Senate bill is coming  
6 up and we've got a commitment from Senator Tester  
7 that, the sponsor of the Senate bill, that he  
8 will put an amendment in, and we're hoping that  
9 that gets taken care of. We just think it's  
10 unjust to reduce retired pay because someone got  
11 disabled, that's really what this is comes down  
12 to, so we're working very hard to make sure that  
13 that gets done and you're, you may not know it  
14 but when you participate in the action center  
15 does make a difference and people, even if you  
16 don't get anything back from your congressman or  
17 your senator, they're still counting, they're  
18 counting those emails, and if they get a lot of  
19 emails it makes them concerned, okay? So keep up  
20 the effort there, that's important.

21 Last but not least, there's the Military

1 Retiree Survivor Comfort Act that we used to call  
2 final month's pay, and this bill has been in  
3 since 2006 by a Republican from North Carolina  
4 named Walter Jones. And he passed away and all  
5 the other legislators had to pick up his bills  
6 and John Garamendi, a Democrat from California,  
7 picked up the bill. He's a great guy, I like him  
8 a lot, he's kind of a no nonsense guy, doesn't  
9 try and play politics, and he's our sponsor now.  
10 He's very pragmatic and so one of the things he  
11 did which, he changed it to where, we had it  
12 worded they would just get the final month's pay  
13 and that didn't work, and so the original sponsor  
14 said we'll delay the SBP payment for a month and  
15 that didn't move the needle at all, but what he's  
16 done, he said we're going to ask them to pay it  
17 back over 12 months. And at least that gets away  
18 with the chronic problem of having, you know,  
19 widow lose their husband and then DFAS comes in  
20 and just yanks the whole check right out of the  
21 checking account. What we want to do is for her

1 to keep that and then if they have to they can  
2 pay it back over 12 months, it won't be the  
3 sticker shock of having it yanked out of their  
4 checking account, so we're going to try to do it  
5 that way and see if it goes somewhere. We are  
6 very encouraged, though, first time since we've  
7 had this bill in since 2006, we have a Senate  
8 bill, Senate Portman from Ohio graciously put the  
9 bill in. And he is also, by the way, going to  
10 put an amendment in for the current NDAA, so  
11 we're excited about that. Again, we really need  
12 to get cosponsors on that and we hope it does  
13 have a shot of going through. It's not when,  
14 since the widow is paying it back over 12 months,  
15 it should not be a huge cost to the treasury, so  
16 we're hoping the Senate will say we'll let it go  
17 by, so we'll see.

18 I know I went over these issues rather  
19 quickly, but I'd be glad if I have time to take  
20 some questions.

21 NP FULTON: Sure, go ahead.

1                   ADVP HUFFER: Good afternoon, shipmates.  
2 I just wanted to add, if anybody would like to  
3 become a VSO, they can come talk to me to get  
4 accredited. It's free if you're an FRA member,  
5 so we need more VSOs. Also, if you're here at  
6 1700, please come next door for the women  
7 veterans forum and if you guys have any  
8 questions, please let us know. Thank you.

9                   S/M DAVIS: Yeah, in the back?

10                  RPNENE ZINO: Delegate Zino, Branch 23.  
11 Shipmate, just a question on SBP. I understand  
12 we've got a bunch of reservists or some  
13 reservists here in the audience and it's my --  
14 I'm not a reservist but I'm understanding we've  
15 got a problem with SBP for reservists. It takes  
16 30 years to get it paid in full and they're not  
17 even eligible for it until they turn age 60 if  
18 I'm correct. So a lot of reservists have been  
19 coming up me saying hey, is there something we  
20 can do about that, and I think that might be a  
21 good issue for the FRA to tackle.

1                   S/M DAVIS: Well, we talked about,  
2                   that's been talked about four years ago. You  
3                   know, it's one thing to give somebody who served,  
4                   you know, a bunch of years active duty day in day  
5                   out, 12 months a year, working in the military,  
6                   and then they get injured and you give them SBP.  
7                   It's another thing for a reservist who does one  
8                   weekend a month, two weeks a year. Now of course  
9                   we have a strategic reserve which means if you  
10                  sign up for six years the last year you're going  
11                  to be on active duty, but that's still not the  
12                  same commitment to be on active duty. We're  
13                  certainly willing to look at something to improve  
14                  their benefits, but I don't know if they should  
15                  get the exact same thing as an active duty  
16                  person.

17                 RPNENE ZINO: Maybe some kind of --

18                 S/M DAVIS: Yeah, I think it needs to be  
19                  looked at, definitely.

20                 RPNENE ZINO: Thank you, Shipmate.

21                 Thank you, Shipmate National President.

1                   S/M DAVIS: Any other questions? Okay.  
2 Well, I'm around all week so if you think of  
3 something. Oh yeah, where?

4                   RPSC: Gruetzner, Delegate, Branch 201,  
5 Regional President South Central. Question: The  
6 medical personnel that we have were reservists  
7 and military at our VAs. Are they talking about  
8 going contract civilians and will we have the  
9 problem that we had back in the '90s where the  
10 union for the civilian medical personnel where  
11 they say he, we're going to stop you, and pulled  
12 them out? We're not going to run into that  
13 again, are we?

14                  S/M DAVIS: Well, we went with the, I'm  
15 trying to think what the name of the program is,  
16 you know, where they said if you got on a waiting  
17 list, remember the waiting list thing at the VA,  
18 people were on waiting lists to get on waiting  
19 lists and all that kind of stuff, and then they  
20 allowed them -- I'm trying to think of the name  
21 of the program. They let them go to, it was the

1 Mission Act, and they let them go to private  
2 sector people they contracted out. 30 percent of  
3 all veterans are now going to private sector  
4 people, and from what I hearing, I don't hear a  
5 lot of complaints, unless you know something  
6 different. I haven't heard a lot of complaints.  
7 Most people are really happy, you know, at least  
8 within 30 days they're seeing somebody, that's  
9 the main thing, right, if you're really sick you  
10 want to get to somebody pretty quick, you don't  
11 want to be on a waiting list, so that seems to be  
12 working pretty well.

13 RPSC GRUETZNER: I'm talking about VA  
14 employees.

15 S/M DAVIS: VA employees being  
16 unionized, you mean?

17 RPSC GRUETZNER: Yes.

18 S/M DAVIS: And that's a problem? Yes,  
19 unions can be a problem, so we're going to get  
20 into the labor issues too? No, they are a  
21 problem, but I don't know how to, you know,

1     that's, it's a fact of life, yeah.

2             Are there any other questions? Again,  
3     I'm around and if you need me, you know, let me  
4     know. Thanks.

5             (Applause.)

6             NP FULTON: Okay, shipmates, it is 1445  
7     and the only thing that I am going to finalize  
8     before we close for the day is to insure standing  
9     committee assignments for tomorrow when the  
10    committee members will get together.

11            Shipmate Past Regional President Norm  
12    Combs is present. Are you ready to get your  
13    committee together in the morning?

14            PRPNC COMBS: I'm ready, I don't know  
15    about the committee.

16            NP FULTON: But you know who's on the  
17    committee and if they're here, they're here, if  
18    they're not then feel free to sit in on when we  
19    identify where everybody is going to go in the  
20    morning.

21            PRPNC: Shipmate President, Combs,

1 Delegate, Branch 161, chairman of the Americanism  
2 and patriotism committee. I have not, I've only  
3 run across a couple of my committee members and I  
4 know two of them that have spoken with me. Are  
5 there any other Americanism and patriotism  
6 committee members here besides Shipmate Lickteig  
7 and Ruiz? Roy is here? Okay. One not here, so  
8 three of you are here, and me, that's four. Give  
9 me a couple more members.

10 NP FULTON: And shipmates, if you don't  
11 have anything to do in the morning when the  
12 standing committees meet and you want to see what  
13 goes on during a committee evaluation or a  
14 committee meeting, feel free to get with the  
15 committee chairs.

16 PRPNC COMBS: Okay, we got one more.

17 NP FULTON: All right.

18 PRPNC COMBS: Can we have one of those  
19 new members that stood up this morning?

20 NP FULTON: If there's a new member that  
21 this is their first convention and they want to

1 go to the Americanism and patriotism, get with  
2 Shipmate Combs. Thanks, Norm.

3 Shipmate Blackburn, budget and finance,  
4 I believe you are scheduled to meet tomorrow  
5 night, correct, or tomorrow morning?

6 S/M BLACKBURN: Shipmate National  
7 President, Blackburn, chairman of budget and  
8 finance committee. Several of my members are  
9 present here, I have emailed those who are on the  
10 advisory group that I will be holding a Zoom  
11 meeting for those who are not available to be  
12 here, and we will meet at 0900 in the Dahlia  
13 Room, which is right next to the national  
14 headquarters office just down the ramp from the  
15 lobby, or from the registration desk.

16 NP FULTON: Thank you. Shipmate Don,  
17 PNP Don Mucheck is not here for constitution and  
18 bylaws. Has he requested from anybody on that  
19 committee to chair it in his absence? Okay.  
20 Looking at that, yeah, I see a whole bunch of  
21 folks on here, okay. Shipmate Past Regional

1 President North Central Marty, since you are the  
2 most senior member on there or, I take that back.  
3 Past Regional President East Coast Phillips, you  
4 are the most senior member on there. Would you  
5 two get together and either one of you decide to  
6 chair that standing committee tomorrow? Yes?  
7 McIntire, good. Thanks, Charles. Yep. Okay.

8 And it looks like the majority of the  
9 committee members is here, so just take a look at  
10 the resolution package that was submitted by  
11 national headquarters to ail the branches and  
12 make sure we're all ready for action.

13 Future planning, Past Regional President  
14 West Coast Joe Nash.

15 PRPWC NASH: Yeah, we're going to the  
16 get together in Dogwood at 8:15 right after the  
17 PRP breakfast. Abe's here and I think there's at  
18 least one or two other members.

19 NP FULTON: Okay. Hospital, welfare and  
20 rehabilitation committee, Shipmate Kelly.

21 PRPSW KELLY: Shipmate National

1 President Kelly, Delegate, 289. Is Vonetta  
2 Charles here, raise your hand? How about Garland  
3 O'Dell? Past Regional President North Central  
4 Maya Pasacani (phonetic)? Thank you. And Junior  
5 Past Regional President East Coast Martin, is he  
6 here? Okay.

7 NP FULTON: All right. Shipmate  
8 Chairman of Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation  
9 Committee, Shipmate National Chaplain Paul  
10 Gunther will assist you if there's any other  
11 shipmates that would care to assist Shipmate Past  
12 Regional President Southwest Kelly for hospital,  
13 welfare and rehabilitation.

14 PRPSW KELLY: Thank you, National  
15 President.

16 NP FULTON: Legislative service, are you  
17 guys intending on meeting anywhere, John? 8:15?  
18 And it looks like you've got a few folks here for  
19 that, they're meeting in the Juniper Room  
20 tomorrow, or Maple? All right.

21 We'll get the committee assignment rooms

1 laid out right after we convene for business  
2 first thing in the morning. I'm just trying to  
3 make sure I've got committees here to do the  
4 work. Membership and retention, that committee  
5 has already met, I believe, Neal, you had been  
6 appointed as the cochair?

7 S/M ROSS: Branch 23, Delegate Ross.  
8 Yes, that's correct, and we're going to meet in  
9 the Juniper Room at nine o'clock tomorrow  
10 morning, and in lieu of Jim Campbell, he couldn't  
11 make it, so I'm standing in for him, and we have  
12 our agenda all set.

13 NP FULTON: All right, thanks. Public  
14 relations, Past Regional President Northwest Pete  
15 Lazzaretti.

16 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National  
17 President, Lazzaretti, Delegate, Seattle Branch  
18 18, chair of the national public relations  
19 committee. I know I'm missing several  
20 individuals and I am recommending that any new  
21 attendee attempt to come through either public

1 relations or any of the other committees, because  
2 this is how you learn what we do, how we do and  
3 why we do.

4 NP FULTON: Thank you, and do you know  
5 where you're meeting tomorrow? All right, we'll  
6 identify someplace.

7 Veteran service, Noel, were you going to  
8 get the committee together tomorrow somewhere?

9 (Inaudible, off microphone.)

10 Yeah, we intend if you look at the  
11 schedule, at 0800 in the morning I intend on  
12 convening the second business session. We will  
13 get a quick credentials report for anything that  
14 may be, you know, not caught up yet, and then I  
15 will break everybody to go to their committee  
16 work for the remainder of the morning.

17 ADVP HUFFER: Shipmate National  
18 President, Huffer, Headquarters. Yes, we are  
19 still going on with the veteran service  
20 committee. NED Chris Slawinski is not here so I  
21 will be taking over for that and I could use all

1 the help I could get, so if anybody has free time  
2 at 09 please show up at the dining room for the  
3 veterans service committee, thank you.

4 NP FULTON: And youth activities,  
5 Shipmate Falu (phonetic)? She is here, good.

6 S/M FALU: Branch 99, Delegate, Shipmate  
7 Falu. Yes. I just need to know if some of my --  
8 yes, there are, Paula, you know, McIrwin, yeah,  
9 the better looking one. I just need to find out  
10 if any or my committee members are here.

11 NP FULTON: Shipmate Warner? I know  
12 Shipmate Cunningham is, she's right there.

13 S/M FALU: She's on two committees at  
14 the same time. I'll take any volunteers at all,  
15 please come join us, I look forward to seeing you  
16 there. Thank you.

17 NP FULTON: All right. Shipmate at the  
18 rear mic.

19 S/M TOULOT (Phonetic): Toulot, Branch  
20 24 Delegate. I just wanted some clarification  
21 because I thought you said the meeting is at

1 eight o'clock tomorrow morning, second business  
2 session, is that what you said?

3 NP FULTON: Yes. It doesn't say until  
4 nine? Oh, there's no --

5 S/M TOULOT: The schedule says 1300 for  
6 the second business session.

7 NP FULTON: All right. Then I won't  
8 convene in the morning, I won't convene in the  
9 morning, I will go ahead, I just, I'm a stickler  
10 on making sure everything gets going in the  
11 manner that it needs to go, so if anybody has any  
12 problems getting their committees together and  
13 getting business done, I will be down here in  
14 this room tomorrow morning and the finance  
15 officer will be here also, that will be  
16 headquarters staff involved and myself, and we  
17 will make sure that the work of the committees  
18 gets done tomorrow so that we can go into  
19 business session. I want to be able to go ahead  
20 and cut loose here right very shortly at  
21 three o'clock because we've got tuxes at 3:15,

1 and believe Shipmate Peg from the convention  
2 committee has a word to say regarding the dinner  
3 cruise tickets tomorrow that she's trying to get  
4 rid of.

5 PRPNW BURKE: These two people need to  
6 see me, Jerry Anger, Claudio Frederic, if you  
7 don't pick up your tickets in the next 15, 20  
8 minutes when he lets you go, I'm going to sell  
9 them. Otherwise -- I've been here.

10 One other thing, Shipmate Fulton. The  
11 hospitality room is not open until 1600 tomorrow,  
12 during the day tomorrow.

13 NP FULTON: Tomorrow?

14 PRPNW BURKE: Tomorrow. It's not open  
15 in the morning, it's not open at noon, it's not  
16 going to open until 1600 Wednesday night.

17 NP FULTON: The hospitality room --

18 PRPNW BURKE: It's open tonight, yeah,  
19 but not tomorrow morning, not tomorrow morning at  
20 noon at all. Look on your schedule, it's on that  
21 schedule.

1 NP FULTON: All right.

2 PRPNW BURKE: We made another run so we  
3 could restock.

4 NP FULTON: Do you have something, FO?

5 FO REID: Shipmate FO. One of the  
6 things I want to make sure is all of the  
7 committees, if you've got the programs, all of  
8 the rooms are listed in the program, so please if  
9 you haven't picked up your program, it's all in  
10 there.

11 Number two, I want to make sure that we  
12 have the veterans rep coming in at 1700 today at  
13 the VA open forum from 17 to 18, and I want to  
14 invite and the final reminder, the welcome aboard  
15 reception is 1900 to 2300.

16 NP FULTON: You will need tickets for  
17 the welcome aboard, that was a convention  
18 committee paid event, so yeah, that's tonight at  
19 1900.

20 All right. Shipmate Chaplain.

21 NCHAP GUNTHER: Shipmate National

1 President, the Bible is closed.

2 NP FULTON: Thank you. Shipmates,  
3 salute the flag. Two.

4 This convention stands in recess until  
5 1300 tomorrow afternoon for the second business  
6 session.

7 (Whereupon, the first business session  
8 adjourned.)

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