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5	93rd Fleet Reserve Association
6	National Convention
7	And
8	88th Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve
9	Association National Convention
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11	JOINT OPENING CEREMONY
12	Tuesday, 5 October 2021
13	
14	Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center
15	1100 North Sullivan Road
16	Spokane Valley, Washington
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1 PNP JOHNSON: Shipmate Master at Arms, would you invite the shipmates, Ladies Auxiliary 2 and guests into the meeting hall please. 3 4 Shipmates, Ladies Auxiliary members, guests, my name is Marvin W. Johnson, commonly 5 called John, the past national president of the 6 Fleet Reserve Association, I was national 7 8 president from 1999 to 2000. 9 (Laughter.) 10 I see this is going to be a fun day. 11 (Laughter.) 12 Anyway, and on my left is Doris Fri, 13 past national president. She's my cochair, 14 emcee, whatever you want to call it. In the 15 script we're emcees and on another script we're 16 chairmen, so good morning. 17 PNP LAFRA FRI: Good morning. 18 PNP JOHNSON: Shipmate Master at Arms, 19 will you escort the keynote speaker, Rear Admiral 20 Melvin W. Bouboulis, to the rostrum please? 21 he's not here yet.

1 Shipmate Master at Arms, will you please escort Mary Kuney to the rostrum please? 2 3 (Applause.) 4 I'm sorry, I have to get this closer so I can read it. Okay, it's your turn. 5 6 PNP LAFRA FRI: Madam Sergeant at Arms 7 and Marshal, will you escort the National President, LAFRA, Jackie Scarbro, to the rostrum? 8 9 (Applause.) 10 Jackie, welcome. You may take your seat 11 right there. 12 PNP JOHNSON: Shipmate Master at Arms, 13 will you please escort the National President of the FRA, Michael "Mick" Fulton, to the rostrum 14 15 please. 16 (Applause.) 17 I now have the pleasure to honor, or present the John R. Rogers High School color 18 19 guard, the Air Force JROTC color guard to present 20 colors. Hand salute. Two. Shipmate National 21 Chaplain, would you please open the Bible?

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    Uncover.
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              NCHAP GUNTHER: Shipmate National
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    Chairman, the Bible is open.
 4
              Almighty God, the creator of all things,
    we humbly beseech thee to accept our devotion,
 5
    and have mercy on the souls of our departed
 6
    shipmates, guide us in our lives and thinking,
 7
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    that we may truly please thee.
                                      Amen.
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              PNP JOHNSON: We will now have the
10
    national anthem sung by Gracie Washburn.
11
    salute.
12
              (National anthem.)
13
             Two.
14
              (Applause.)
15
             She's a keeper, isn't she?
16
             We will now have our Pledge of
17
    Allegiance.
                 Hand salute.
18
             (Pledge of allegiance.)
19
                   Color guard, post the colors.
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    Two.
          Hand salute.
                         Two.
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             (Applause.)
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1 They did a fantastic job. At this time we will have a reading of 2 3 the preamble to the Constitution of the Fleet 4 Reserve Association. 5 (Preamble to Constitution of FRA read by 6 the assembly.) 7 PNP LAFRA FRI: Auxiliary members, you 8 will repeat with me the preamble to the 9 Constitution of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet 10 Reserve Association. 11 (Preamble to Constitution of LAFRA read 12 by the assembly.) 13 PNP JOHNSON: I'd like to introduce Mary 14 Kuney who is with -- oh, I'm sorry. It looks so good standing, I'm standing up. There. Anyway, 15 16 she's with the Spokane Center and District 2 on 17 the County Board of Commissioners. Mary. 18 MS. KUNEY: I want to say welcome everyone to Spokane Valley, we are so excited 19 20 that you're here in Spokane County. My name is Mary Kuney and I'm a Spokane County commissioner, 21

I'm one of the elected officials here in Spokane County and this is my district here, kind of in the valley area. So very excited for you to be here, we've got great weather today, I hear it's starting to change, it's going to get a little cooler for you, but you know, the leaves are turning, the colors are changing, so this is a great time to be here in Spokane Valley.

I want to say thank you for having the national meeting for the Fleet Reserve

Association here, because it's really important that I, you know, seeing people from all over the country and coming here, you get to get a taste of the special place that Spokane, Washington is. I don't know how many have been here before, but some facts about Spokane is, we are home to Fairchild Air Force Base, and I've actually had the pleasure and currently as civic leader for the Air Force, and so I get to travel around to meet with other civic leaders across the nation, which I'll be doing here the end of this month,

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to talk about issues that impact our airmen across the nation. So Fairchild is home to the 92nd Refueling Wing and also the SERE school, so it's a very important piece of training for our pilots.

Spokane is the smallest city in history to have had the World's Fair, so in 1974 we had Expo 74, which was downtown, so if you go downtown there used to be railroad tracks that went through, and they cleaned all those up and built this wonderful park where we had Expo 74, so one of the fun facts. We also routinely host major events like the NAACP -- NCAA, I'm sorry, men's basketball tournament, world figure skating championships, and we are home to the Gonzaga Bulldogs, so I'm actually a Gonzaga alumni, proudly, so excited that you're here and get to enjoy some of that as well.

And then our singer who sang earlier, she's from Central Valley High School which is out in the valley, of which I'm an alumni of that

school as well, so born and raised out here.

In June we host Hoop Fest, which is one of the largest three-on-three basketball tournaments. We haven't been able to do it the last two years because of COVID but we're looking forward to hosting that again next year.

And then we also are the birthplace of Father's Day, so one of those little fun facts that not a lot of people know. So there is a lady here in town who really wanted to make it happen, so it's the birthplace of Father's Day.

Again, I just want to say thank you, welcome, excited that you're here. I can say I proudly, my dad served as a Marine in the Korean War and my brother served eight years in the Navy, so I appreciate all that you do for our servicemen and women and for the veterans, so thank you for being here, we really appreciate you coming to Spokane and having your national convention here.

(Applause.)

1 PNP JOHNSON: Shipmate Master at Arms, 2 if you will escort Mary out please. 3 (Applause.) I'm going to call to the mic now John 4 5 Davis from national headquarters. He's going to do the introduction for the admiral. 6 7 MR. DAVIS: Good morning, shipmates. I'm John Davis, I'm director of legislative 8 9 programs for the Fleet Reserve Association and 10 I'm glad to have the opportunity to introduce our 11 keynote speaker. He's Rear Admiral Melvin 12 Bouboulis, who serves as Commander of the 13th 13 Coast Guard District headquartered in Seattle. 14 He is responsible for all Coast Guard operations 15 throughout the Pacific Northwest, which 16 encompasses the states of Washington, Oregon, 17 Idaho and Montana. It includes 4,400 miles of 18 coastline, 600 miles of inland waterways and 125 19 miles of international border with Canada, and 20 that's nautical miles. 21 Rear Admiral Bouboulis' previous flag

assignment was the director of operations 1 2 logistics, in which he was responsible for delivering mission support logistics for the 3 4 Coast Guard's steady state and contingency 5 response operations, for planned events of 6 national significance. Rear Admiral Bouboulis 7 flew as an operational pilot at all of his 8 aviation field assignments and participated in 9 the historic Hurricane Katrina response in 2005. 10 Rear Admiral Bouboulis is the longest serving 11 Coast Guard aviator, earning him the distinction 12 as the service's 26th Ancient Albatross. 13 (Laughter.) 14 The Rear Admiral graduated from the 15 Coast Guard Academy with a bachelor of science degree in 1987 and he earned a master's of 16 17 science degree in aeronautical engineering from 18 Purdue University in 2000. Please give him a 19 warm welcome. Thanks. 20 (Applause.)

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ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: Thank you, John, I

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appreciate that. Sound check, can you guys hear me all right? Well, good morning. I tell you, the flag, the honor guard and was it Lacey who sang, oh, Gracie, it was a wonderful rendition of the national anthem, just wonderful, and a great way to kick things off.

Good morning to you all, members of the Fleet Reserve Association. As John mentioned, I'm Rear Admiral Mel Bouboulis, the Commander of the Coast Guard's 13th District, and I'm honored to represent both District 13 and the Coast Guard at large here in beautiful Spokane, hope you're enjoying the weather here, the FRA's 93rd national convention, it truly is my privilege and pleasure to speak with this impressive group in this impressive forum on behalf of America's sailors, our Marines and Coast Guardsmen, our Coast Guardsmen, our nucleus about which the Navy forms in times of war. And I say that a little bit in jest, but that was something that was kind of inbred to us at the Coast Guard Academy, but I

want you to know that our naval services, they
truly work closely together and collaborate with
one another to really keep our nation safe,
secure and prosperous, and I know that many of
you are veterans, prior service members, spouses
who supported those types of activities, and I
appreciate all your service and support, and
continued support for our active duty members and
their families.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of our distinguished guests and our FRA leadership, including the National President Mick Fulton, thank you, and National President of the Ladies Auxiliary Jackie Scarbro, nice to see you. I'd also like to acknowledge some of the keynote speakers that you're going to be having later this week, especially Congressman Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington's 5th Congressional District; Lourdes Tiglao, who I understand is going to be with you later also, the director of the Center of Women Veterans, Office of the

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Secretary; and of course Mary Kuney, who was here representing Spokane County in District 2. So thank you all for attending, and I'm honored being in your company here today.

You know, I was talking with John earlier today and I was asking him how large the service was, or your membership was, and I think he mentioned somewhere around 42,000, or maybe you're up to a hundred thousand, or maybe it wasn't John I was speaking with. You know, your Coast Guard is really the smallest of your armed services. We consist of just under 48,000 active duty and reserve members serving literally across the globe. And for those who are familiar, I know we have a couple of Coast Guard members out here, our service song kind of highlights that. We serve from Aztec shore to Arctic zones, to Europe and Far East. And you've seen the Coast Guard in action, from responding to earthquakes in Haiti, helping process Afghan refugees, and responding to hurricanes, as well as patrolling

the western coast of the Pacific, in addition to our normal duties. And our people, they work tirelessly and stand the watch on land, sea and air, all while managing, you know lately, this global pandemic challenge. And of course our Navy and Marine Corps members are doing the same, and that's really what makes you all's work so very important.

I want to thank the FRA for your tireless pursuit of improving the lives of women and men and the families serving in our country, in our Coast Guard, our Marine Corps and our Navy. And perhaps equally important, your continued efforts to insure that the benefits of those veterans who have proudly served this nation are supported and secured. You do honorable work, thank you again.

I have to tell you when I last served here on the west coast, it was as a duty standing pilot at the Coast Guard unit in North Bend,
Oregon back in 1994 to 1998. I'll tell you, it

seems like a long time ago, but our biggest challenges and issues back then were housing, medical care and childcare, and what do you think the biggest issues in our area of responsibility are today, housing, medical care and childcare, and you all know that, and those are some of the things that you help us support, things that the Fleet Reserve Association are fighting for to better today. Your focus on people, and they're really the backbone of our service, all of our services, and that's something that I value tremendously.

In fact, so much so that when I developed my command philosophy I emphasized a couple of things. My philosophy revolves around three major tenets and they're people, mission execution and stewardship, and the people category I put first and I put it for a reason. I understand that our people are vitally important, are really our most valued asset, and when it comes to making policies, operational

1 decisions, deploying our forces, I really want to 2 think about the impact on our people first. Think about the impact on our people before we 3 make decisions, and understanding the impact that 4 it has, our operations have on our people and our 5 6 families, and particularly during this time, you 7 know, over the last 18 month, when we've just all 8 faced a huge amount of stress between the 9 pandemic, social unrest, craziness of the media 10 pitting people at one another, and so I think 11 it's an appropriate time to really focus on people and supporting our people, and I'm 12 13 passionate about that across our service. 14 Which is another reason why I appreciate 15 the determination that you all have to improve

the determination that you all have to improve the lives of the women and men of the naval services, and why I appreciate the values and the philosophy of the Fleet Reserve Association.

So I'll open up to questions here in a little bit but before I do that I want to talk about a few things today, some of the initiatives

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that we're moving forward with to improve the lives of our members, and also some of the results that we've seen across the naval enterprise, and that includes some specific examples of the Coast Guard here in District 13, and then finally really ask for your help, your help to help us recruit the next generation of service members and our leaders.

So here in our Coast Guard's 13th

District which I'm responsible for, you heard
that encompasses Washington, Oregon, Idaho and

Montana, the women and men conduct a vast array
of daily operations in support of the Coast

Guard's 11 statutory missions. Our crews can be
found conducting search and rescue missions,
patrolling the Pacific coast, Straits of Juan
de Fuca and Puget Sound, to enforce fishery
regulations, protecting the environment. They're
conducting safety and compliance inspections of
commercial vessels and waterfront facilities and
protecting our nation's strategic nuclear defense

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assets and critical infrastructure, all right
here in the Pacific Northwest.

Now a unique thing with District 13 is that it's home to the majority of the Coast Guard's surf stations, and 70 percent of the Coast Guard's surfmen. Let me explain what these These are the women and men who operate are. 47-foot vessels in breaking surf up to 20 or 30 feet along our coastline and our treacherous bars. And trust me, I've been out on the Columbia River Bar, it was during just this last summer season, it was before the heavy weather season sets in, and we were still getting tossed around in that boat. And the individuals that are out there are constantly getting battered around, and their skills at piloting and navigating those assets are really second to none. It really made me appreciate my decision to become an aviator a long time ago. You know, I tell you, I see those folks, I like to hover above that mess and stay out of it, but they took

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me out on the boat, made me feel at home but you know, I tried to play it cool, I left my aviator sunglasses in the car and I think they appreciated that.

But anyway, these stations are unique in that they're found all across the coast and really in some remote areas, spanning from the Chetco River in Brookings, Oregon on the California border up to the Quillayute River in Washington. Some of these towns, the Quillayute River, you know, it's on tribal reservations literally with just 500 residents or so, tiny little towns. These surf stations have the responsibility to rescue fishermen and other mariners in some of the worst weather and sea states the United States has to offer, and they've been doing it for over 150 years. And our Coast Guard and its predecessor services, the Revenue Cutter Service, some of you may be familiar with that, or our Lifesaving Service and others, they're really ingrained in the history

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1 of the communities of the Pacific Northwest and throughout the United States.

And it's no surprise that one of the biggest issues for our service members serving today is the inability of our BAH or basic housing allowances to keep up with the volatility of the housing market. There's been an extraordinary surge in rental prices across the country due to the COVID pandemic, and then this whole Air B&B thing that's been going on, that's consumed a lot of the inventory of houses for our service members. They're facing some unique challenges. And normally the BAH audit is conducted on an annual level or an annual basis and reviews housing data, and they make changes or recommendations for changes to the housing allowances, and you can understand how that's retroactive and it just doesn't keep pace with the dynamic market that we've seen now and the impact of the pandemic on the housing market.

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So many of our service members, they're

stuck, you know, they're paying out of pocket, paying above BAH to find places to live, and it's common to see members who have to commute an hour or two each way to work, particularly in these remote areas, to find affordable housing in quality neighborhoods where they can stay within their BAH or their housing allowances. And many of our junior members have to take up roommates to make ends meet, that's nothing that we're probably all not familiar with early on in our careers.

instability felt in the housing market, the
Secretary of Defense, and I suspect some of your
associates have helped with this, approved a
temporary BAH increase to about 56 housing areas
across the United States, and it's about a 10 to
20 percent increase in different areas, and it's
effective from October until December until that
new audit comes in, and hopefully the new rates
will keep up with the increases. It's designed

of our most affected areas, and I really appreciate the initiative. It's really amazing what DOD and their partners have put forward, and we're thankful for the help to combat the housing market.

But you know, due to the remoteness of some of those units I was talking about along the western, or Washington and Oregon coasts, those units are quite a distance from our predominant large DOD housing areas, so of those 50-some areas that were designated, you know, only two, two of those areas are in District 13 and affect our Coast Guard members. All the others are in isolated areas and we're seeking to drive some improvement and some help for those areas as well. We want to help folks find affordable quality housing in desirable neighborhoods.

So one specific area where the Coast Guard sincerely appreciates the Fleet Reserve Association's energy and passion is your

continued support in the Coast Guard parity
efforts, where you are tirelessly insuring that
there's funding equity across DOD, or with DOD on
pay, benefits and housing for our women and men,
plus the adequate resourcing of the Coast Guard's
budget. You know, I looked through some of your
annual goals and desires and that equity, that
DOD equity really resonated with me, and I
appreciate your support with that.

Again, the Coast Guard being the smallest of services and funded through Homeland Security, we face a little different budget process than DOD, and any help that we can get to highlight that your Coast Guard is every bit as important to our national defense, as well as our homeland security, is vitally important and helpful to us, so thank you again for that.

Another important aspect is the tuition assistance parity between the Coast Guard and DOD. I'll talk about this real briefly. Fiscal year 2020 the cap for tuition assistance in the

Coast Guard was \$2,250, whereas DOD's was \$3,000. 2 And in fiscal year 21 it got a little bit better, 3 the Coast Guard cap was 3,750 and DOD's was about 4 \$4,500, still under our sister service. 5 especially in a time when higher education is 6 important, in fact it's almost necessary to 7 succeed, and an educated workforce leads to a 8 better workforce. Now some of that is the Coast 9 Guard's own budgetary decisions, but again, we face a whole budget, different budget climate, 10 11 and as we try to recapitalize our assets, produce 12 fuller security cutters, pursue infrastructure 13 improvements, address cyber vulnerability 14 throughout the maritime transportation systems, 15 we have to make tough decisions and again, we

When I think about parity with DOD partners, my thoughts also go to the risk of government shutdowns and the lack of our members being paid, because we were close to that again

desire to support our folks on equal terms as

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here recently. I tell you, I think everybody breathed a good sigh of relief, I know I did, I checked my paycheck on October 1st once the Congress passed the continuing resolution. Of course that's just a short reprieve until December or so and then we've got to go through this again, but we're incredibly thankful for your continued support of the Pay Our Coast Guard Act with Congress so that we can avoid lapses in pay in the future and any potential government shutdown. Like the one that we had where we were shut down for 35 days back in 2019 and some of our service members were adversely impacted, they missed a few paychecks and there was a lot of stress, mostly with our junior members.

I tell you that scary experience is still fresh in members' minds and as I visit our units, travel around and meet with folks, it's still something they bring up frequently, we lost a little trust with our folks and we have to restore that, and again, I appreciate all your

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efforts to support the Pay Our Coast Guard Act.

So as we look to the future of our Navy, Marine and Coast Guard, we look forward to FRA's efforts to help us develop programs to recruit and retain a diverse workforce that resembles and equally represents the rich fabric of our great nation. Our strength resides in our people and the different perspectives, talents and abilities that each individual brings to the organization. We need to recruit and retain a world class workforce, derived from the richness of American society, and fostered on an inclusive environment. Diversity and inclusion, they're really cornerstones of high performing organizations, and they lead to better mission effectiveness. I can speak to that personally.

I tell you, we need help in getting today's youths and tomorrow's leaders interested in serving their nation and joining the military, specifically our Marine and naval resources, the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The United

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States Coast Guard is committed to being ready, relevant and responsive in our ever expanding role across the globe and in order to do that we need young people, young women and men in all of our ranks and all walks of life, and we need to retain them.

So some things that help with that and make our services employers of choice is expanding and increasing the government match for the Thrift Savings Plan. This is a great start in order to retain a world class workforce and the FRA is already working on a plethora of other programs in order to achieve its goals. The organization fights for initiatives such as securing active duty pay increases that are at a minimum equal to the employment cost index to keep pace with the private sector, and the school choice program for military programs and families, allowing them the option to use public funds to send their children to private schools or other educational services. Those are just a

few of the ways that you and your efforts support us in helping retain, recruit and keep America's talent.

So in closing, I want to again say thank you to the Fleet Reserve Association for inviting me here today. It truly is my honor to speak and be in such a remarkable audience. And on behalf of the women and the men serving in the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, we're incredibly grateful and thankful for your enduring support and commitment to all of our endeavors. So God bless America, the Navy, the Marine Corps, our Coast Guard, your Coast Guard, and the Fleet Reserve Association. Semper Paratus, and thank you.

(Applause.)

I don't know if this is typical but I'd be happy to give you a couple moments to entertain any questions any of you may have.

PNP JOHNSON: Feel free, Admiral, if there's any takers out there. No requirement,

1 but --2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Admiral, ask the tall guy in the red hat who his keynote speaker 3 4 was in 2000. 5 (Laughter.) 6 There we go. PNP JOHNSON: Kansas City, 7 right? 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was the Coast 9 Guard Commandant. 10 ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: Ah, very well. I 11 probably should have mentioned that in my opening 12 remarks, so I'm glad we had a chance to do this. 13 You did indeed invite the Commandant, Admiral Karl Schultz, and he sent me on his behalf, so I 14 15 was happy to represent him and the Coast Guard. 16 (Applause.) 17 You didn't get the four-star, but you 18 got half of it, how's that? 19 (Laughter.) 20 PNP JOHNSON: Let me ask shipmates that are Coast Guard vets, stand up please. 21

1 (Applause.) 2 ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: All right, thank 3 you, folks. The oldest continuous --4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Admiral, there 5 was a SNAFU this morning but we got through. 6 ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: We did, I'm glad 7 we've got history here, because -- and I have to tell you, I was dramatically embarrassed by that 8 9 because in my bio is also the chief engineer for 10 the Coast Guard, so I can't tell you how many 11 times I briefed the Commandant himself on the 12 status of the Polish Star when they were getting 13 underway, so that was an embarrassing one for me. 14 PNP JOHNSON: Any questions? 15 ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: Yes, ma'am? 16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to, 17 my son is in the Coast Guard and that is the 18 powerful support that we can give for them is to 19 pray for them, and I do from my heart, that is the best thing I could ever have done in life is 20 pray and pray and pray. And this is my fifth 21

1 life, I just want to share it with you, and I 2 don't want to keep myself silenced because prayer is powerful, and I want to thank -- I'm not sure 3 I'm allowed to speak, but they allowed me to 4 5 speak and I speak. 6 ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: No, I appreciate 7 Where is your son. that. 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's in Miami. 9 ADMIRAL BOUBOULIS: Miami, all right. 10 Well, your prayers are probably answers, it sounds like he's in a pretty good place. 11 12 All right, thank you all very much, I 13 really appreciate the opportunity to be here to represent all of our naval services, Navy, Marine 14 15 Corps and Coast Guard, and of course be a 16 representative for Admiral Schultz. Thank vou. 17 (Laughter and applause.) 18 Thank you all again. 19 PNP JOHNSON: My script here, it looks 20 like it's repeating itself so need to find out 21 where it starts again.

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I'd like to now invite Past National President Gary Blackburn to the microphone there on the floor if that's convenient. He's going to tell us a little bit about the Education Foundation. PNP BLACKBURN: Okay, let me go over here and shift to the other mic. Hopefully I don't have -- can everybody hear me without a microphone? I have to use the microphone for the recording, okay. Go figure. Thank you. It's my pleasure to be here today to speak briefly about the FRA's Educational Foundation. I'm Past National President Gray Blackburn. For those of you who don't know me, like I've said in the past, you're probably better off. Oh, you're going to let me sit down

The foundation's work is directly related to the FRA mission and founding principles. As many of you know, the FRA

and do this? Hey, this is a good idea, thank

you.

education scholarships, offered education scholarships for years to deserving students for nearly three decades, and to help expand the program the Association launched the Education Foundation in 2009. The Education Foundation is a separate 501(C)3 organization, we have distinct governing documents, a separate board of directors and IRS designation. Foundation finances are maintained in separate accounts and audited annually.

This year we awarded 25 scholarships totaling \$93,000 thanks to our legacy donations, individual and branch donations, and other contributions. For the first time, and I'm proud to say I helped initiate this, we have awarded two scholarships to deserving students attending vocational school or junior college.

(Applause.)

This is something new for the 2021-2022 academic year. As they say, turn the page, okay. I've only read this five times, I should have

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memorized it but I didn't. The complete list of the 2021 scholarship recipients is included in your September issue of the FRA Today, so everybody hopefully has looked at it, seen the pictures and seen where the scholarships have Scholarships can make a big difference in the lives of recipients and we need the help of all shipmates and auxiliary members to help expand awareness about the program and encourage more college bound students to apply. Please mention the foundation, the scholarships, at branches and you unit meetings, and note the 2022 scholarship applications are posted on the FRA website at fra.org/foundation.

Our scholarship program's a major interest for our new members, it's a great recruiting tool, it's something that we need to emphasize when we're looking at our new shipmates or trying to get them in the association because if you are a shipmate or affiliated with the FRA, you will have a better chance of receiving one of

our scholarships. We have to diversify and not all of them go to FRA members but the vast majority do, or who are affiliated, a lot of grandsons, granddaughters, you see that a lot of the recipients are that from the association.

The foundation takes pride in maintaining a low administrative cost in conjunction with this program. We are fortunate -- okay, I'll figure this out eventually, which hand has the microphone in it, okay. We're fortunate to have a very vast or good group of volunteers who are members of the foundation.

Oh? I know we hired you for a reason. Okay.

Corporate and individual contributions of any amount are tax deductible and welcomed in support of this important program.

Finally, the Amazon Smile program, I don't know how many of you are familiar with that, how many of you buy things from Amazon, I think I own part of it now, but one half of one percent of all of your qualified purchases go to

1 a designated charity, and you can designate which 2 charity you desire by going up on the Amazon 3 website. 4 So thank you for your strong and 5 continuing support of the foundation, and a 6 special thanks to the individual shipmates and 7 branches for their generous contributions to the 8 program. And please help spread the word about 9 our scholarships, it is important, please do 10 that, and thank you very much. 11 (Applause.) 12 PNP JOHNSON: I think Gary willingly did 13 the information for the scholarship program 14 because Joe wasn't able to be here today, is that 15 true? 16 PNP BLACKBURN: That's true. 17 PNP JOHNSON: Okay. I quess, Doris, 18 here you go right here. 19 PNP LAFRA FRI: Shipmates, ladies, 20 distinguished guests -- I'm going to repeat that. 21 Shipmates, auxiliary members and guests, I have

1 the distinct -- I'm sorry -- it is now my 2 privilege to introduce the following: First I would like to introduce the eight regional vice 3 4 presidents who were elected and installed at the 5 recent regional conventions. Please stand as I 6 call your name, and hold your applause until all 7 have been introduced in each group. 8 Regional Vice President, Northeast New 9 England, Charlotte Loveless, she's not here with 10 us today. East Coast Regional Vice President 11 Loretta Jordan. Southeast Regional Vice President Lee Nettles. North Central Regional 12 Vice President Chris Durr is not with us today. 13 South Central Regional Vice President John Neal, 14 15 Past National Chaplain, is not with us today. Southwest, Marilyn Cornell. West Coast Regional 16 17 Vice President Tina Peterson. And Northwest 18 Regional Vice President Jenna Chadwick. 19 (Applause.) 20 You may be seated. Next I would like to 21 introduce our regional presidents elect. Please

1 stand as recognize you, and they are Regional 2 President Elect Northeast New England Laurie 3 Starkey. East Coast, Dorothy Smiley. Southeast, Rolene Clase. North Central, Doris Fri, Past 4 5 National President. South Central, Jenny Larson, 6 Past National President. Southwest, Georgina 7 "Gigi" Harmes. West Coast Regional President 8 Kelly Pina. Northwest Regional President elect 9 Teresa Addison. 10 (Applause.) 11 Please be seated. A large number of 12 past national officers are here today. Will all past national officers of the LAFRA please stand 13 14 to be recognized? 15 (Applause.) 16 Ladies, please be seated, and thank you 17 for being here. I will now introduce past national precedents of the Ladies Auxiliary. 18 Please stand as I call your name and remain 19 standing until all have been produced, so hold 20

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your applause. Junior Past National President

Bea Parco, Christina Murray, Doris Fri, Diane
Hoover, Jenny Larson, Cindy Rodham-Tuck, Sandra
Robbins, hold on, I've got to turn the page. I
guess they're stuck together. You may be seated,
and thank you for being here.

(Applause.)

I'm like John, I've got to get this thing up to where I can see it. I'm looking down through my bifocals and that is not a good idea.

I will now introduce the national officers of the LAFRA. National Chaplain, Lyn Transfiguracion; National Parliamentarian, Christina Murray, Past National President; Regional President, Northeast New England, Cindy Rodham-Tuck, Past National President; East Coast, Virginia Jordan; Southeast, Gail Mason, Past National Chaplain; South Central, Jenny Larson, Past National President; West Coast, Kelly Pina; Junior Past National President, Bea Parco; National Financial Secretary, Brenda Horton; National Treasurer, Nadine Fulton; National

Jackie Scarbro.

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1 Executive Secretary, Veralyn Thomas; our National Vice President as you all may know was unable to 2 be with us today, but we will want to say her 3 4 name, Pat Suchow, and our National President 5

(Applause.)

PNP JOHNSON: Doris and I are having trouble with this script because the font is about a four, and I already hit the FO over here for a larger font the next time we have it. Anyway, back to the script.

I'd like to ask all the FRA regional vice presidents to stand as I introduce you, and please hold your applause until we finish with each group. Regional Vice President Northeast New England, Raymond Rizzo. Not here. Coast, Gabriel Falu. Southeast, Jerry Anger, is that right, we had a hard time finding you today and somebody told me what it was and I wasn't sure how you spell it. Okay. North Central, Marshall Cunningham. South Central, Victor

1 Southwest, Chris Chapman. West Coast, Walker. Joseph Huffman. Northwest, Rex Fabian. 2 3 (Applause.) Thank you. I'm glad you guys could make 4 it the first time, it's nice to see what's going 5 6 on once in awhile, so you'll learn. Next I would like to introduce all the FRA regional presidents 7 8 elect. Please stand as you are recognized. 9 Regional President Elect Northeast New England, 10 Neal Ross. East Coast, Christopher J. Murray. Southeast, Jack Vogel. North Central, Marcia A. 11 12 -- oh, Maria, sorry, Maria A. Beam. Sorry, my 13 eyes and the print, you know, I'm sitting here 14 and my glasses aren't working either. No. South Central is Ursula Gruetzner. Southwest is 15 16 Rogelio Bacud. I'll just call him Roger, yeah. 17 West Coast is William L. Hanzel. Hansel? I told 18 you I'm having trouble with this font here. 19 Okav. And the last is Michelle Davis. 20 (Applause.) 21 Thank you, shipmates. I will now

1 introduce the, well, same as her, we have a large 2 number of regional officers and past national 3 officers, so would all the gray hats please stand 4 up. 5 (Applause.) 6 If you've got a gray hat on, just stand 7 up. Thank you. 8 I will now introduce the past national 9 presidents of the FRA and would you please stand up as you're called. Now this guy's before me, 10 11 because I said '99 to 2000, this quy is before 12 me, so go ooh-rah all you want. Bob Beese. 13 Gary Blackburn, and Don Larson. Garv? I don't 14 know about anybody else but this is the smallest 15 number of red hats I've seen at a convention, so 16 we'll get to her. Donna Jansky please. 17 (Applause.) 18 See, if she had been sitting down where I could see her, but she was hid over here. I 19 20 will now introduce the national board of the FRA. 21 Please stand as you're recognized. National

- 1 Chaplain Paul Gunther. National Parliamentarian 2 Bob Beese. Regional President Northeast/New 3 England Abe Zino. East Coast, Brian J. Jones. 4 Southeast, Donald R. Gibson. North Central, 5 Jerome P. Lickteig. South Central, Ursula 6 Gruetzner. Did I do better? Southwest, Roger. 7 Let's see, Regional President Northwest, Danny 8 Hunt. And West Coast is William Hanzel. 9 (Applause.) 10
  - And we've got the junior past too, I want to get her up there, I'm not forgetting you, Donna, and let's see, as everybody knows, Christopher Slawinski is at home recuperating and while I'm thinking of it, out back in the lobby there's a bunch of cards, big ones. Please sign them for all these people that have not been here and make them feel good when they get that card in the mail. The national vice president, his card is out there also, and National President Mick Fulton.

(Applause.)

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1 You can sit down. 2 We will now go through a two bell 3 ceremony. National Chaplain Paul Gunther, Triangle Branch 182, will now conduct the two 4 5 bell ceremony. 6 NCHAP GUNTHER: The toll of the ship's 7 bell reminds us of the reverence we owe our 8 departed shipmates and to those who guard the 9 honor of our country in the air, upon the sea, 10 under the sea. This moment of reverence we 11 dedicate to the memory of our departed shipmates that are now serving on the staff of the Supreme 12 13 Commander, Past National President Mark Kilgore, 14 Past National President Dick Smith. 15 Amen. 16 PNP JOHNSON: Would the national 17 chaplain please drape the charter? 18 NCHAP GUNTHER: Excuse me, National 19 Chairman, the charter is already draped. That's 20 the auxiliary. 21 PNP JOHNSON: Oh, that's the auxiliary.

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1 Oh, excuse me.

I will now have the FO come forward and read some communications or whatever you've got.

FO REID: Shipmates, LAFRA, welcome. Ι am representing not just myself but headquarters and also of course the NAD, Chris Slawinski, one of the things that he advised that we do is to make sure that everyone understands what's happening to him. He has been diagnosed with prostate cancer in early September and he is undergoing radical treatment at this time. I speak to him on a daily basis, he wishes that he could be here, he asks that we as his staff carry on as well as we could, and that everyone here just have prayers for him, sign the card, and he hopes to be back next year in Birmingham, Alabama.

One of the things, the item that we know is that tomorrow there is a run for tuxedos, and I think everyone that knows the time, and if you don't you can see me later.

The other thing is the hotel wants to know if there are any early leaving required on Saturday or Sunday, they've got one shuttle and they want to make sure, one of the things you should do is sign up at the front desk to make sure that if there's an early departure required by you that the hotel knows it and that they can have the transportation available for you. That's it.

(Applause.)

PNP LAFRA FRI: Madam National President Jackie, would you please join me at the podium? I didn't get the script until just before I got here, so I did not bring her a gift but she will get one. I have a small gift for her anyway, but I did not see the script, but the thought is there. I would like to now invite you to speak to the assembly.

NP LAFRA SCARBRO: Good morning,
auxiliary members, shipmates, national officers.

I'm just really glad to see everybody all

together again after such a long time, so I'm really happy that you're all here and I hope you enjoy this convention. The auxiliary members will meet at one o'clock for our first session, so please join us.

(Applause.)

PNP JOHNSON: Mr. Past National, or National President, soon to be past, I'm not trying to hurry you, Mick. On behalf of the FRA's 93rd national convention committee, it is my pleasure to present you with this gift and to wish you a successful and enjoyable convention.

NP FULTON: Shipmates, it is a pleasure to be here and I too look forward to being able to conduct business for the last two years, I know it's been a little bit trying two years, but fortunately this year I was able to get out and do some traveling and see some shipmates throughout the country, and it was enjoyable.

At this time I would like to welcome to the FRA and to the Auxiliary's national

CRC Salomon, Inc.

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conventions as we kick off this great event, I'd like to recognize those who are attending their first national convention. If this is your first time attending, please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

Shipmates and Auxiliary members, look around and if you see one of these folks in our business meetings, the passageway or the hospitality room, please say hello and make them feel welcome.

(Applause.)

For those of you that may not know, the individuals have a smiley face on their credential to identify them as a first-time attendee. Thank you.

PNP LAFRA FRI: I just wanted to say how wonderful you all are from up here, and it's so nice not to see very many empty chairs. And I know this is one of our smaller conventions because of travel issues and health issues and all of that, and it's been a long two years

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waiting to see everybody again, so I am more than happy to be here. I'm here if you need my help, if you need flag me down as I'm flying through the hallways on my scooter, a substitute for my broom.

(Laughter.)

But anyway, it's wonderful, I just can't say enough, and I have had goose bumps and teary eyes all morning. That young lady that sang the national anthem brought tears to my eyes. That's a song I could listen to many times and I never fail to get goose bumps and tears when listening to the national anthem. God bless America, God bless all of you, and let's get this show on the road.

(Applause.)

PNP JOHNSON: I hope I didn't hash it up too bad for you all. Like I said, it's pretty hard reading this when your glasses aren't working right with it, it's blurry, so I think I blurred a few things.

1 But anyway, anybody in here from the 2 convention committee please stand. 3 (Applause.) 4 Thank you. We now invite the national presidents of the FRA and the LAFRA to come to 5 6 the podium please. 7 I hand this to you and you are now in 8 charge. 9 Thank you. Madam National NP FULTON: President, are you ready to convene your 10 11 convention? 12 NP LAFRA SCARBRO: I am ready. 13 Okay, I'll let you go first. NP FULTON: 14 NP LAFRA SCARBRO: I hereby convene the 15 88th National Convention of the LAFRA. 16 And I hereby convene the NP FULTON: 17 93rd National Convention of the FRA. 18 At this time I will make the 19 announcement that the first business session of the FRA will be at 1300 today in the Tamarack 20 21 Spruce Room.

1 NP LAFRA: And 1300 today in the 2 Ponderosa Room for the Auxiliary. 3 (Applause.) 4 NP LAFRA FRI: Hold on. I now declare 5 the join opening ceremonies of the FRA/LAFRA 6 national convention completed and the convention 7 is in recess until the business sessions at 1300. 8 PNP JOHNSON: Will the National Chaplain 9 please close the Bible. 10 NCHAP GUNTHER: Shipmates uncover. The 11 Bible is now closed, Shipmate National Chairman. 12 PNP JOHNSON: We are now in recess. 13 PNP LAFRA FRI: We are now in recess. 14 (Whereupon, the joint opening ceremonies 15 recessed.) 16 17 18 19 20 21

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