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97th Fleet Reserve Association
and
92nd Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association
National Convention

Joint Opening Ceremony

4 November 2025

Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
Springfield, Missouri

1 (Called to order at 0930.)

2 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate Master at
3 Arms, will you invite the shipmates, auxiliary
4 members and guests to enter the meeting room?

5 You can leave the doors open, this is
6 not some private operation here.

7 MASTER-AT-ARMS: The Admiral is still
8 not here.

9 PRPNC LICKTEIG: What happened? I see
10 the commander back there shipmates. Is everybody
11 here? I see him now.

12 Shipmates, auxiliary members and
13 distinguished guests, my name is Shipmate Jerry
14 Lickteig, past regional president North Central.
15 I will be the master of ceremonies this morning.

16 (Applause.)

17 Technically speaking, my main job down
18 here is to make sure that you know the way to the
19 hospitality room we set up for you.

20 (Laughter.)

21 On my left here is the Auxiliary FRA

1 Past National President Doris Fri, who is my
2 cochairman.

3 (Applause.)

4 We are pleased to welcome all of you to
5 this joint opening of the FRA and Auxiliary of
6 the FRA to this national convention.

7 Shipmate Master at Arms, would you
8 escort Councilman Abe McGull to the podium, or to
9 the rostrum.

10 (Applause.)

11 Shipmate Master at Arms, will you escort
12 the keynote speaker, Lieutenant Commander
13 Christopher L. Henson, Commanding Officer, Naval
14 Reserve Center, Springfield, Missouri, to the
15 rostrum.

16 (Applause.)

17 Shipmate Master at Arms, will you escort
18 Lieutenant Commander Jasen D. Nickman, officer in
19 charge, Center for Seabees and Engineering
20 Detachment at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to the
21 rostrum.

1 (Applause.)

2 PNP LAFRA FRI: Sergeant at Arms, please
3 escort to the rostrum National President,
4 Auxiliary of the FRA Kelly Pena to the rostrum.

5 (Applause.)

6 Shipmate Master at Arms, will you escort
7 Maria Behm, National President of the FRA to the
8 rostrum.

9 (Applause.)

10 Color guard, present colors.

11 MAA: Present arms.

12 (Colors presented.)

13 MAA: Two.

14 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate National
15 Chaplain, would you invoke a blessing? Uncover.

16 NCHAP FALU: Almighty God, creator of
17 everything, we humbly ask that you accept our
18 prayers. Please have mercy on the souls of our
19 departed shipmates. Guide us in everything we do
20 that we may truly honor you. Amen.

21 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Cover.

1 We will now have the singing of the
2 National Anthem by Cynthia Jones.

3 (National Anthem.)

4 Shipmates and auxiliary, please join me
5 in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
6 Hand salute.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

8 Color guard, post colors.

9 (Colors posted.)

10 Shipmates, you will recite with me the
11 preamble to the Constitution of the FRA.

12 (Preamble to FRA recited.)

13 PNP LAFRA FRI: Auxiliary members, you
14 will recite with me the preamble to the
15 Constitution of the Auxiliary of the Fleet
16 Reserve Association.

17 (Preamble to Auxiliary of the FRA
18 recited.)

19 PRPNC LICKTEIG: At this time I would
20 like Councilman Abe McGull to come to do a
21 certificate to present to the national president.

1 (Applause.)

2 COUNCILMAN MCGULL: Well, good morning,
3 Fleet Reserve Association members. I'm honored
4 to present the city's proclamation to you in
5 making Springfield your host city for this event.
6 As a retired Navy commander I know the many
7 benefits this organization has fought to give
8 sailors, Marines and Coast Guard and their
9 families . Every day the Fleet Reserve
10 Association lobbies Congress to pass meaningful
11 legislation to make our lives better for us who
12 have served and those who continue to serve this
13 grateful nation.

14 It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome
15 you to this great city and to also read this
16 proclamation to you signed by the mayor of the
17 City of Springfield, Missouri. It states:

18 Whereas, since November 11, 1924, the
19 Fleet Reserve Association has been a beacon of
20 light to our nation's veterans, especially our
21 members of seagoing services, United States Navy,

1 Marine Corps and Coast Guard;

2 Whereas, it has been a powerful voice
3 in Washington, D.C., promoting legislation to
4 improve the quality of life for service members,
5 veterans and their families, including pay,
6 benefits, health care and retirement;

7 Whereas, the Fleet Reserve Association
8 has served the community of Springfield, Missouri
9 through vast service programs including
10 educational benefits, essay competitions by
11 Springfield youth honoring our Constitution and
12 our beloved flag; and

13 Whereas, the members of the Fleet
14 Reserve Association value the highest traditions
15 of patriotism, loyalty and service to our nation,
16 continuing to uphold the core values of seagoing
17 services, honor, courage and commitment; and

18 Whereas, the dedication of the Fleet
19 Reserve Association to preserve its legacy to
20 enlisted sea service personnel and to future
21 generations exemplifies a deep and lasting

1 commitment to the values on which our great
2 nation was founded.

3 Now therefor, the mayor of Springfield
4 Jeff Schrag proclaims November 11, 2025 to be
5 Fleet Reserve Association Day, and we will
6 encourage all our citizens in joining and
7 honoring the legacy of this fine institution and
8 organization.

9 Signed by the mayor, Jeff Schrag.

10 Thank you so much for being here.

11 (Applause.)

12 PRPNC LICKTEIG: I just want to add a
13 comment on that. Abe is a proud member of Branch
14 316 here in the great city of Springfield.

15 (Applause.)

16 At this time I would like for Lieutenant
17 Jasen Nickman, the OIC of the Seabees located at
18 Fort Leonard Wood to address the shipmates and
19 auxiliary members. Lieutenant?

20 (Applause.)

21 LT NICKMAN: Awesome. Hey, thank you

1 very much for having us out here. You guys are
2 doing a great job. So yeah, it was nice walking
3 around meeting some of you, having the distinct
4 pleasure of seeing what the Fleet Reserve
5 Association is really about, a lot of people that
6 really care about our country. It was refreshing
7 to say the Pledge of Allegiance, I haven't done
8 that since I was in grade school, I don't know if
9 they do that anymore.

10 Anyhow, in our 250 year anniversary it
11 is an honor to stand here among fellow warriors
12 who have carried the force of freedom across
13 oceans, deserts and generations. Nearly 250
14 years ago the Navy took up the watch to defend
15 our homeland, preserve and promote civility and
16 protect the seas to sustain our way of life. So
17 being a seabee, a brown water sailor and talking
18 with a number of folks here, we've got actual
19 sailors, Coast Guard -- they're what?

20 SPEAKER: They're brown water.

21 LT NICKMAN: They're brown water, we'll

1 take that. So we're a naval construction force,
2 right, NCG, Naval Construction Command, that's
3 our bread and butter. And what we do at fort
4 Leonard wood, we train engineering aides,
5 equipment operators. We also have mobile utility
6 support equipment technicians up there. So they
7 don't come, as soon as they get out of boot camp,
8 their first stop is at Fort Leonard Wood, so we
9 really have folks who have been in the Navy since
10 breakfast, right, recruits in the Navy. Boot
11 camp is very short, right? There is a lot that
12 we have to teach them in a short period of time.

13 Some of the battles that we have are
14 sailors that come in, mental health is a big
15 thing that they struggle with, right? I think
16 that technology is a huge advantage for us but it
17 can also be a kryptonite, right? The readily
18 accessible comments and feedback, the instant
19 gratification folks are getting, I'm not sure if,
20 you know, some of our younger folks, I think
21 that's an immense power that may exacerbate some

1 problems that may not have been there, but we
2 appreciate that feedback and they have an
3 impression, right?

4 So our folks will come in and they'll do
5 ten weeks or 15 weeks of training and then for 12
6 months of use, and then they'll go to their duty
7 station, right? And in that short period of
8 time, we have instructors that really dedicate
9 themselves to some very long days, right, 12-plus
10 hours of training, to basically take a sailor who
11 just learned how to march, know how to step off
12 on the left foot, they know the cadence, and can
13 even sing a few Jodies, right, that's what they
14 know. We teach them, and the amount of time and
15 effort that my staff pours into developing these
16 seabees is incredible, right?

17 I see that same level of commitment in
18 this group, right, whether you did one term or
19 you did 20 or more years of service, whether you
20 were enlisted or officer, right? I see a deep
21 passion, a deep commitment to that. And that's

1 exactly what my staff embodies in teaching this
2 young generation.

3 Some of the feedback that I get when I
4 sit with students when they graduate, they will
5 tell me things that you know, I was always told
6 they're a softer generation, they're different,
7 right, that some of the stressors and some of the
8 things they have are just different, okay? I
9 have seen resiliency, I've seen sailors that need
10 to build resiliency as well, but they're all
11 coming here from differences, from the world
12 wars, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm,
13 Afghanistan and Iraq, different eras, different
14 cultures, different types of warriors, right?

15 I do not, I fully believe that this
16 generation when that conflict hits, because of my
17 staff, that they will rise to that level, right?
18 I don't believe that anybody lacks any resiliency
19 or the fortitude in wanting to complete the
20 mission of preserving our freedoms.

21 I took a quote from a gentleman names

1 Gene Sledge, right, and he has a memoir of World
2 War II and he said war is brutish, glorious and a
3 terrible waste. Combat leaves an indelible mark.
4 The only redeeming factors are my comrades'
5 incredible bravery and their devotion to each
6 other.

7 I see that every day. That's why I
8 sleep comfortably at night knowing that my
9 sailors and my seabees have given their all,
10 they're training, they're molding, they're
11 creating that next generation of sailors,
12 soldiers and Marines to preserve and protect our
13 freedoms.

14 So, we have a lot of changes coming to
15 the Navy, mostly physical readiness and things of
16 that nature, right? All of these are put in
17 place in an effort to meet the level of
18 expectations of President Trump. I know that as
19 we increase that level of readiness for our
20 sailors, right, we are a representation of the
21 American people, and sons that you should be very

1 proud of.

2 So in closing, we will continue to push
3 peace through strength, and protect and preserve
4 our freedoms abroad. Thank you very much for
5 having me out here, and God bless.

6 (Applause.)

7 NED REID: Good morning, shipmates,
8 family and friends of the FRA and the Auxiliary
9 of the FRA. How are we this morning?

10 (Cheers.)

11 I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. How are
12 we this morning?

13 (Cheers.)

14 All right, outstanding. I'm here to
15 introduce our keynote speaker, Lieutenant
16 Commander Christopher L. Henson, Commanding
17 Officer, Navy Reserve Center, Springfield,
18 Missouri. We certainly appreciate -- and with
19 that, I'm not going to talk a lot. What we want
20 to do is give him the opportunity to get up here
21 and say a few words of wisdom to us, and now

1 without further ado, I want to introduce
2 Lieutenant Commander Christopher L. Henson,
3 commanding officer of the Navy Reserve. Let's
4 give him a big welcome.

5 (Applause.)

6 LCDR HENSON: Can you all hear me okay?
7 There's a free cell phone here on this podium if
8 anybody wants on. All right.

9 First, I would like to thank the local
10 Fleet Reserve Association and your national
11 leadership for inviting me to speak here today,
12 extremely honored to be here. However, I admit,
13 no one is more surprised to see me up here than I
14 am. You call me a keynote speaker, I'm like
15 okay, whatever, you asked for it, but when Chief
16 Turner and Master Chief Ady, the local
17 representatives asked me to speak, I was like
18 what do you want me to speak about. They go
19 whatever you want, only five minutes.

20 (Laughter.)

21 So you're a little disappointed and I'll

1 tell you, the key to writing a speech when they
2 tell you five minutes, the first thing you do is
3 you go on Google and you type in, how long is a
4 five-minute speech? 625 to 800 words depending
5 upon the speaker, we're going to go a little bit
6 over five minutes if I run on too much, so here
7 we go.

8 And if you heard me talk a little bit,
9 that's just left over lingering, I had some crud
10 last week, so I apologize. So if anybody shook
11 hand with me, don't worry, I didn't lick a
12 doorknob earlier or anything, so we should be
13 good. First of all, my military career actually
14 started with eight years enlisted in the Air
15 Force.

16 (Chorus of boos.)

17 I know, but I'll be honest. I went to a
18 Main Street recruiter, my dad had been in the
19 Navy, but he had some Air Force friends and stuff
20 like that, and you hear about all the services
21 and the Air Force just sounded like a good gig at

1 that time. And the only reason I really chose to
2 separate from active duty, a few concerns, you
3 know, parents' health and things like that, but
4 like many of us I started to miss that connection
5 with the service, you know, you miss your friends
6 and things like that, and after a few years break
7 in service, a friend of mine did the oddest
8 thing. He migrated, I don't know if I should say
9 migrated, but he left the Army National Guard and
10 went into the Navy Reserve, and I was like you
11 can actually do that? I did not know that, and
12 are there any Navy reservists in here? There is,
13 and you can back me up on that one, the Navy
14 pulls from other resources.

15 So I started considering joining the
16 Navy Reserve in Cape Girardeau, Missouri where I
17 lived at the time. And in fact April of last
18 year, not this year, marked 20 years since I
19 joined the Navy Reserve.

20 (Applause.)

21 Thank you. For me, it's been a

1 fantastic opportunity as enlisted and officer,
2 you know, and I chose, why be a reserve, I
3 always, you know, if I had to give a reason, I
4 didn't have to drive high speed to get to the
5 airport. No. I wouldn't, you know, the real
6 reason was it supports the community and the
7 ability to perpetually recruit and encourage
8 others to serve. That was one of the things I
9 love. My daughter used to, whenever she or my
10 son would bring a friend home, I would ask them
11 three questions, and these are the questions.
12 Are you considering college, what are your
13 interests, and have you thought about the
14 military. Because you know -- and I still do
15 this to young people when I meet them for the
16 first time if they're in high school, you know,
17 because sometimes you don't have people with that
18 knowledge or that experience to kind of help
19 guide you. You know, my parents told me I was
20 going to college. Okay. But they didn't know
21 what the hell I was going to do when I went three

1 because they didn't go to college. They just
2 wanted better opportunities for me, like any
3 other parent for there children.

4 So like some of you probably did, I
5 tried college for a bit and I eventually
6 graduated but you know, it just wasn't for me at
7 the time. So I eventually decided to go into the
8 military, you know, and I'll say this. When
9 people say thank you for your service, I
10 sometimes feel a bit guilty, because yes, there
11 were times when, you know, I had to do that
12 crappy job, I had to take a bath in the field, I
13 had to spread grass and do backbreaking work.
14 But you know, I also had some of the best
15 memories from my time in the service, which
16 includes meeting my wife, she was in the Air
17 Force as well, please don't boo, overall it's
18 been a great tool and experience, and I love
19 sharing that with others.

20 Why do I like to encourage young people?
21 I think it stems from hearing the stories from my

1 parents under, you know, they would tell me when
2 I was growing up, you know -- and I'll say this.
3 If you have a good story and it's embarrassing
4 and you tell it to me, there -- I had one warning
5 from my wife. Be sure that you want me to tell
6 you that story because I'll remember it. If it's
7 a funny embarrassing story, I'll run into you in
8 five years and say oh, you're the guy who did
9 this, or you're the one who did that, or yeah, I
10 remember you telling me the story about, and I'm
11 like do you remember that? Yeah, if it's a good
12 story, I'll remember it, and we usually do. I
13 see our reporter going quick and I know you have
14 to keep up with me; we talked earlier during that
15 break so I just want to make sure I'm not going
16 too off key.

17 It's really kind of like nudging points,
18 where you want to go with it. So, I'm an IT guy.
19 Yeah, I know. This is something I learned about
20 me. The Navy will use you to the best of their
21 ability based on your capabilities. I came in,

1 Global War on Terrorism is banging away and I
2 came in and thought I'd do my first year. I did
3 18, went in and did some work with somebody, and
4 then out of the blue I got an email from some
5 lieutenant commander asking me hey, would you
6 come to Millington, Tennessee, it's only
7 three-and-a-half hours away from home, come here
8 for six weeks, we need some help with some stuff
9 on computers and we think you can do it. They
10 kicked somebody who lived there locally so they
11 could mobilize me stateside. Everybody else was
12 going to Iraq or Afghanistan, I got mobilized
13 there. Why, because I had to learn, I had to do
14 data analysis and run the numbers that
15 congressmen kept asking about.

16 So the Navy found me and I had the skill
17 set and they're always going to use it, and
18 that's one thing I do admire in the Navy, you can
19 be a BU, but if you can -- you know, a builder,
20 for those of you who aren't seabees, I'm sorry,
21 but if you can -- I had a machinist's mate who

1 sat right next to me doing data analysis with me.
2 So I'm not kidding, they'll use you for whatever
3 skills they need that you can prove and work for
4 that. Your rate is only important when you're
5 trying to get promoted, right? So yeah, the ole
6 pick your rate, pick your fate kind of thing.

7 So I like to see that, this is the
8 information age, and focus and talk about that.
9 So if it's boring, I apologize, but I'll say
10 this. A lot has changes since I first entered
11 the military. Internet, et cetera, all this
12 newfangled technologies that they come out, you
13 know, we're growing by leaps and bounds. You
14 hear about drones and things like that designed
15 to save service members' lives. You know, it's
16 amazing the amount of information, just the
17 amount of information that is available to the
18 individuals, because we keep collecting year
19 after year after year, you know, and with the
20 introduction of AI -- see, there's that pause I
21 was telling you about -- you know, paint a

1 picture of tomorrow, and some of this might
2 actually be a little impossible, we just don't
3 know what we don't know, AI may show us a few
4 things we never thought about, but here's one
5 thing I think about. Technology's great,
6 information's great, but we need to hang on to
7 knowledge. Knowledge is different, you know, the
8 growth in technology is fantastic, it promises
9 potential, and there's nothing I enjoy more than
10 running an inquiry for fun. I mean seriously, it
11 would bore me and you see this glaze come over
12 their eyes, but we all have the thing we're
13 passionate about and if you explain it to
14 somebody else, you just learn to look, hey, I
15 lost my eyes, okay? So this is what happens,
16 right?

17 However, I remember the story from Greek
18 mythology and the young boy called Icarus, his
19 father was Daedalus, they were trapped on an
20 island and Daedalus had built these wings out of
21 feathers and wax. And he was saying you'll be

1 reasonably safe, don't fly too close to the water,
2 you'll get wet and you'll drown, you fly too
3 close to the sun, the wax will melt and you'll
4 crash. And what did he do, he took advantage of
5 technology, put too much trust in it and flew too
6 close to the sun, the wax melted and thud, he
7 fell. This is not to say technology is bad, but
8 you know, I'd be cautious in how I embrace it in
9 my life and things like that.

10 When we moved to Springfield I did not
11 set up our mirage system in the house yet, I
12 still haven't done it. We've been there well
13 over a year and a half. You know why? Because I
14 got so used to saying Alexa, what time is it? I
15 would catch myself almost doing that out in
16 public if I wanted to know what time it was, you
17 think I'm joking and I'm not. But anyway, the
18 information available today, you have to take
19 everything that goes with it. Information,
20 that's the data points. Mirage includes the
21 facts and information data points but it also has

1 the skills acquired by a person through
2 experience or education.

3 This is like doing chores for grandpa,
4 it's so much more fun now. He was teaching me
5 the skill, he was walking me through the steps,
6 he was explaining and while he was doing it all
7 the crazy things your dad did while he was a kid,
8 so he had ammunition, your dad did this or that.
9 But anyway, we're going to wrap this up here
10 pretty quick.

11 (Laughter.)

12 I'm sure like many of you, it's
13 important to make sure that we pass this on from
14 generation to generation because essentially your
15 knowledge and experience, those are the things
16 that they obtain and build into systems, whether
17 it be a weapon system or some sort of system to
18 help make decisions and things like that, they
19 learn from those.

20 So my career, you know, right now it's
21 kind of sunseting. I mean, I'm going to be

1 around a few more years, but my hope now is I
2 made the Navy a better place than I found it.
3 And it's not even creating some sort of new
4 program or developing a new weapons system.
5 Thank God I had a point where I realized it's not
6 as important as it used to be, you know, you get
7 to the point in your career where you can't go
8 any further, you're getting too old or you're
9 getting to high in rank or something like that.
10 So I'm kind of grateful for that.

11 I think the really important thing is
12 developing people and you know, I want to make
13 sure that the people in charge when I turn over
14 the watch are ready. Like I said, my plan is not
15 to end this pattern of like ensuring knowledge
16 through -- and I'll say this right now. My
17 experience with the local members of your Fleet
18 Reserve Association, I have seen the importance
19 of this. Because Chief Turner, Master Chief Ady
20 and other members, they'll come out. Anybody
21 here heard the term chief season? They have

1 people who come out in the fleet. We had three
2 of them this year, right, three of our reserves
3 here made chief, and there's been plenty members
4 of the FRA who helped to develop those and pass
5 on that knowledge and everything like that.

6 It's a daunting experience. You think
7 getting up here is easy? It is not. I could not
8 have done this on day one, I don't think anybody
9 would want to do that on day one. But people
10 like that pass on knowledge, not just information
11 but knowledge, here's things I ran into, here's
12 things you have to watch out for, look for this
13 kind of person. That's stuff you're passing on
14 and that's the great thing I like to see.

15 Also, organizations like the Fleet
16 Reserve Association, they have importance to the
17 community that we develop in uniform and you can
18 see them as a resource, not just for retirees and
19 veterans, but for those of us in uniform both
20 active and reserve. They provide mentorship and
21 guidance to others when needed, they don't ask

1 for it, but you know, it's always great when it's
2 provided. You know, I'm grateful to see that
3 service continue in organizations like the Fleet
4 Reserve Association.

5 I just want to say thank you, it has
6 been such an honor to stand before you here
7 today, you are a tribute to the nation. Most
8 likely, your experience is probably way more than
9 mine, mine didn't overshadow yours, so I just
10 want to say thank you, Fleet Reserve Association
11 leaders, members, for this invitation to speak
12 and to join this organization. God bless all of
13 you. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 PNP LAFRA FRI: At this time I would
16 like to present our National President Kelly Pena
17 to come to the podium and explain her national
18 president's project.

19 (Applause.)

20 NP LAFRA PENA: I don't have my paper
21 with me but I've been around so everybody knows

1 my national president's project this year is Paws
2 for Purple Hearts. It's a really great 501(c).
3 As an employee at the VA hospital in Palo Alto I
4 work daily with these dogs and trainers in
5 training, and I have to tell you the work that
6 they do, whether it's an emotional support dog
7 for TBI or somebody that's talking, it just, you
8 just don't understand until you see the actual
9 dogs in work, and then when you actually see them
10 get placed with the veterans, it's something that
11 never goes away. I just hope that many of you
12 have a chance before I finish with this, please
13 come see my national financial secretary and make
14 a donation.

15 They were going to come out, but because
16 of the shutdown, the dog and one of the trainers
17 canceled their trip, but they were going to come
18 out and bring one of the puppies.

19 But it's Paws for Purple Hearts, and
20 they go from Washington to California and as far
21 as South Carolina now, and they're moving in to

1 the east coast. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 PNP LAFRA FRI: At this time I would
4 like to introduce the eight regional vice
5 presidents who were elected and installed at the
6 recent regional conventions. Please stand as I
7 call your name, and hold your applause until all
8 are introduced as a group.

9 Past Regional Vice Presidents:

10 Northeast/New England, Nicholas Luz, Unit 31;
11 East Coast, Pamela Bishop, Unit 99; Southeast,
12 Evelyn Davezan, Unit 290; North Central, Deborah
13 Baker, Unit 161; South Central, none; Northwest,
14 Cheryl Young, Unit 170; West Coast, Tina
15 Pedersen, Unit 137; Southwest, Jinise
16 Clagett-Rostrata, Unit 289.

17 (Applause.)

18 Please be seated.

19 Next I would like to introduce the
20 regional presidents elect. Please stand as I
21 recognize you. They are Regional President Elect

1 Northeast/New England Cindy Rodham Tuck, Past
2 National President, Unit 31; East Coast, Virginia
3 Jordan, Unit 24; Southeast, Ronalee Klase, Unit
4 22; North Central, Pat Wentworth, Unit 161; South
5 Central, Joseph Neal, Unit 162. Sorry about
6 that, sorry for the delay. Southwest, Cindy
7 Salsbury, Unit 170 -- Northwest, I'm sorry, Cindy
8 Salsbury; West Coast, John Souza, Unit 287; and
9 Southwest, Myrna Sales, Unit 32.

10 (Applause.)

11 A number of past national officers are
12 here today. Will all past national presidents of
13 the LAFRA please stand and be recognized?

14 (Applause.)

15 Sandra Robbins, Cindy Rodham Tuck,
16 what's her name?

17 (Laughter.)

18 Christina Murray -- forget my manners.
19 Nadine Fulton, Pat Suckow, Gini Larson, and me.

20 (Applause.)

21 Hold on, I missed a couple. Helen

1 Courneya and Carolyn Whitaker.

2 (Applause.)

3 Vera Thomas down here on the end without
4 the red hat on.

5 (Applause.)

6 I will now introduce the current
7 national officers of the LAFRA. National
8 Chaplain Dorothy Smiley; National Parliamentarian
9 Helen Courneya, Past National President.
10 Regional Presidents: Northeast/New England,
11 Nicholas Luz; East Coast, Loretta Jordan;
12 Southeast, Carolyn Whitaker; North Central, Donna
13 Lickteig; South Central, John Neal; Northwest,
14 none; West Coast, Tina Pedersen; Southwest, Myrna
15 Sales. Junior Past National President Vera
16 Thomas; National Executive Secretary Pat Suckow;
17 National Treasurer Sharon Lippitt; National
18 Secretary Laurie Stuckey; National Vice President
19 Gini Larson, Past National President; and our
20 National President Kelly Pena.

21 (Applause.)

1 You may sit please.

2 PRPNC LICKTEIG: All right. First I
3 would like to introduce the regional vice
4 presidents to stand as I introduce, and please
5 hold your applause until they're all standing.
6 Regional Vice President Northeast/New England,
7 Kimberly Yoder-Notaro; Joyce Harris, please
8 stand. East Coast, and I'm not sure I'll
9 pronounce this right, Valerie Toulotte;
10 Southeast, William Grimes. Excuse me, not
11 Southeast, Southwest. That is correct, I got
12 lost up here. Southeast, William Grimes, is he
13 here? All right. North Central, David Herndon;
14 South Central, Emmett Smith; Southwest, Brian
15 Ginter; West Coast, Robert Porter. And I don't
16 have a name here for Marcus; Marcus Pena, West
17 Coast.

18 Would the regional vice president for
19 Northwest please stand? Your name is not on the
20 list up here. Northwest? Northwest? Okay.
21 Give a round of applause, and have a seat.

1 (Applause.)

2 Southwest was Don Kelly? All right.

3 (Applause.)

4 Don, you should have slapped me last
5 night in the hospitality room.

6 Next I would like to introduce the
7 regional presidents elect. Please stand as
8 you're recognized. Regional President Elect
9 Northeast/New England Joyce Harris; East Coast,
10 Valerie Toulotte; Southeast, William Grimes;
11 North Central, David Herndon. I messed up.
12 David, you should sit down, sorry. For North
13 Central, Michael Russell, please stand, vice
14 president. Please sit down right now.

15 (Laughter.)

16 All right. I'm going to go through this
17 one more time. The names in a couple locations
18 here are not in the right order, so I'm going to
19 go back through, please bear with me.

20 The regional vice presidents, all right.
21 Northeast/New England, so Regional President

1 Northeast/New England Kimberly Yoder-Notaro, not
2 here; East Coast, your name is not on the list,
3 Paul Falu. Please stay standing.

4 (Applause.)

5 Southeast, William Grimes -- William
6 Thornton.

7 (Applause.)

8 All right. North Central, Russell --
9 Michael Russell.

10 (Applause.)

11 South Central, Emmett Smith.

12 (Applause.)

13 Southwest, Brian Ginter. Don Kelly.

14 (Applause.)

15 West Coast, Robert Porter. Marcus?

16 Marcus Pena.

17 (Applause.)

18 We have none from Northwest. Give them
19 a round of applause.

20 (Applause.)

21 You may sit down. I am still breathing,

1 but we're just playing musical chairs.

2 Next I would like to introduce the FRA
3 regional presidents elect. Please stand and be
4 recognized. Hold your applause until I get
5 through messing this up. Regional President
6 Elect Northeast/New England Joyce Harris, right?
7 All right. East Coast, Valerie Toulotte;
8 Southeast, William Grimes; North Central, David
9 Herndon; Southwest, Ed Labao; West Coast, Robert
10 Porter; Northwest, Robert Bean. Give them a
11 round of applause, folks.

12 (Applause.)

13 There are a number of past national
14 officers of the FRA present this morning. Time
15 does not permit to individually introduce them,
16 so I would ask all past national officers of the
17 FRA to please stand and be acknowledged.

18 (Applause.)

19 You may be seated. I would now like to
20 introduce the past national presidents of the
21 FRA. George P. Hyland, here? All right. Virgil

1 Courneya; Gary Blackburn; my favorite one most
2 recently, Donna Jansky. And who did I not call
3 up? Oh, all right. Thank you all.

4 (Applause.)

5 You gave me too much ice last night.

6 I now would like to introduce the
7 national officers, hopefully correctly. I'm
8 going to go up there after this is over with.

9 National Chaplain Gabriel Falu; National
10 Parliamentarian Marty Posekany; Regional
11 President Northeast/New England Ray Rizzo; East
12 Coast Robert Oliveira; Southeast Jerry Anger;
13 North Central Brian Jones; South Central Bruce
14 Talbot; Southwest Ed Labao; West Coast Joseph
15 Huffman -- who is it? Porter, all right.
16 Northwest, Robert Bean. Junior Past National
17 President, Robbie gets to stand up again; James
18 Robbins, to my right. National Executive
19 Director Phillip Reid. National Vice President
20 Richard Fetro. And our National President, Maria
21 Behm. All right.

1 At this time I would ask that, we're
2 going to prepare for the two bell ceremony.
3 Shipmate Master at Arms.

4 Remove your covers.

5 (Two bells ceremony.)

6 MAA: The tolling of the ship's bell
7 reminds us of the reverence we owe to our
8 departed shipmates and those who guard our
9 country's honor upon the seas, under the seas, in
10 the air, upon foreign soil. Let it remind us to
11 be defined in us. Let us who gather here not
12 forget our obligations to breathe a prayer for
13 our active shipmates. Each in his own words,
14 each in his own way, bow your heads and let us
15 pray. Offer a silent prayer for our departed
16 shipmates who are now serving on the staff of the
17 Supreme Commander. This moment of reverence is
18 dedicated to the memories of our shipmates:

19 Thomas L. Lisher, Past National
20 President. Claire H. Purdy, Past Regional
21 President East Coast. John S. Handzuk, Junior

1 Past National President. Richard E. Hamilton,
2 Past Regional President Northeast. Ralph
3 Holcomb, Past Regional President East Coast.
4 Darrell Lee Hilliard, Past Regional President
5 East Coast.

6 Cover.

7 PNP LAFRA FRI: Madam National

8 President, will you please join me at the podium?

9 We of the 92nd Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve
10 Association National Convention Committee present
11 you with a gift, and we wish you a most
12 productive, harmonious and enjoyable convention.

13 (Applause.)

14 I now invite you to speak to the
15 assembly.

16 NP LAFRA PENA: Hello, everybody.

17 Shipmates, auxiliary members, it's an honor to be
18 here in front of you in this particular place and
19 conduct a great convention, I hope with all the
20 help of all of you guys. It's been an honor
21 serving all year, we would go to this point,

1 let's do this, let's get our business done, let's
2 work together, auxiliary members, shipmates, I
3 love you all. Thank you for this opportunity.
4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate National
7 President Maria Behm, please come to the podium.
8 I would like to present this gavel to you.
9 Please don't hit me with it. She wanted a
10 baseball bat, primarily for me. I would like you
11 to address the assembly.

12 NP BEHM: Auxiliary and shipmates, this
13 has been a sincere pleasure this year serving
14 you. We all accomplished quite a bit on both
15 sides, and I am looking forward to getting up and
16 finishing this with you and just sitting back and
17 relaxing and cruising for the next three months
18 with my husband Bob, Past National Chairman
19 Robert Behm. I couldn't have done it without
20 him, and the other PNPs who were really a great
21 help.

1 God bless you guys, we're going to have
2 a great convention. I won't use that H word, you
3 know the harmonious thing, so we're going to have
4 a great time, so let's have some fun. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 PRPNC LICKTEIG: I now invite the
7 national president of the FRA and the national
8 president of the Auxiliary to the FRA to convene
9 their respective conventions.

10 NP BEAM and NP LAFRA PENA: We now
11 jointly declare that the joint opening ceremonies
12 of the 97th FRA National Convention and the 92nd
13 Auxiliary of the FRA National Convention is in
14 recess until 1300 today.

15 (Applause.)

16 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate Master at
17 Arms, please escort Councilman Abe McGull.

18 (Applause.)

19 Shipmate Master at Arms, will you please
20 escort out Lieutenant Jasen D. Nickman.

21 (Applause.)

1 So, if the three national presidents
2 would show everyone the beautiful shirts that
3 they received in their bags.

4 (Applause.)

5 Please uncover. Shipmate Master at
6 Arms, please escort Lieutenant Commander Hanson
7 -- he is a member of FRA, so he's going to be
8 staying here anyway.

9 (Applause.)

10 Shipmate National Chaplain, please close
11 the Bible. Uncover.

12 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate National
13 President, the Bible is now closed.

14 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Cover. Hand salute.
15 Two. We're now in recess until 1300.

16 (Joint Opening Ceremony adjourned at
17 1050.)

18

19

20

21

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