

92ND NATIONAL CONVENTION 2019
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019
OPENING CEREMONY
0900 - 1100

Crowne Plaza Memphis East Hotel
Memphis, Tennessee

1 OPENING CEREMONY

2 0900 - 1100

3
4 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: I am Shipmate Past National
5 President Lawrence J. Boudreaux, Hangtown Branch
6 275, Chairman, FRA 92nd National Convention.

7 On my left is Past National President
8 Helen Courneya, High Sierra Unit 274, Chairwoman
9 of the LA FRA's 87th Annual Convention.

10 We are pleased to welcome you all to the
11 joint opening ceremony of the LA FRA's National
12 Convention. Everyone can hear?

13
14 (Assembly: Yes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Turn your phones off.
17 Shipmate Captain Ross, where are you at? Please
18 escort keynote speaker, Captain Alonza J. Ross,
19 U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer, Naval Support
20 Activity Mid-South to the rostrum.

21
22 (Assembly: Clapping)

23
24 (Captain Ross is escorted to the
25 rostrum.)

1 PNP COURNEYA: Master- and Sergeant-At-Arms and
2 Marshall, will you escort the National President,
3 LA FRA, Christina Murray, to the rostrum.

4
5 (Assembly: Clapping)

6
7 (National President, Christina
8 Murray, is escorted to the rostrum.)

9
10 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Shipmate Master-At-Arms,
11 will you escort National President of the FRA,
12 Robert Washington, Senior, to the rostrum.

13
14 (Assembly: Clapping)

15
16 (National President of FRA, Robert
17 Washington, Sr., is escorted to the rostrum.)

18
19 PRESIDENT: I now have the honor to present Color
20 Guard, Section: Lower Mississippi River,
21 Memphis, Tennessee Coast Guard.

22 Color Guard, present colors.

23
24 COLOR GUARD: Hand Salute! Mark Time! March!
25 To the left! March! Detail! Halt!

1 PRESIDENT: Now, recite the Preamble of the
2 Constitution.

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Pledge Allegiance.

5

6 (Assembly: Recites Pledge of
7 Allegiance).

8

9 PRESIDENT: Two.

10

11 COLOR GUARD: Two!

12

13 PRESIDENT: Color Guard, prepare the Colors.

14

15 COLOR GUARD: Detail! Forward march! Hand
16 Salute!

17

18 PRESIDENT: Two! Shipmate National Chaplain,
19 will you invoke the blessing of God.

20

21 CHAPLAIN: Uncover.

22

23

24

25 (Blessing of God is invoked)

1 PRESIDENT: The Auxiliary members may be seated.

2

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

5

6 PRESIDENT: Thank you, Shipmate National
7 Chaplain. Auxiliary members may be seated.
8 Shipmates, will you recite to me the Preamble of
9 the Constitution of the Fleet Reserve
10 Association.

11

12 (Shipmates recite the Preamble of the
13 Constitution of the Fleet Reserve Association.)

14

15 PRESIDENT: Shipmates may be seated. Auxiliary
16 remain standing.

17

18 NP MURRAY: Auxiliary Members, you will recite
19 the Preamble to the Constitution of the LA FRA.

20

21 (Auxiliary Members recite the
22 Preamble of the Constitution of the LA FRA.)

23

24 PRESIDENT: At this time I'd like to call
25 (unintelligible) person from the hotel and her

1 boss.

2

3 MS. WOODS: Hey, guys, this is Monica Woods. It
4 has truly been a pleasure working with you guys
5 since Sunday. I'm checking people in. I know a
6 couple of you guys by name now, and we will never
7 forget you guys. Thank you so much for choosing
8 our hotel. I'll be seeing around. If you need
9 anything, please just let me know. We're going
10 to work hard to get it done for you guys. And we
11 hope to see you guys in the future. Thank you
12 guys for your service.

13

14 MS. WOLFF: Good morning. My name is Rachel
15 Wolff. I'm the director of sales here. My team
16 helped bring you all back here. I know you've
17 all traveled from different states, different
18 areas. We do appreciate you guys. Just want to
19 welcome you guys. Thank you for being here at
20 the hotel, and thank you guys all for your
21 service.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: I will now introduce the
24 distinguished guests. We don't have any.

25

Captain Alonza J. Ross, USN, Commanding

1 Officer, Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

2

3 (Assembly: Clapping)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Joseph L. Barnes, president,
6 FRA Education Foundation, National Executive
7 Director, Emeritus, FRA.

8

9 (Assembly: Clapping)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Christina Murray, National
12 President, Ladies Auxiliary FRA.

13

14 (Assembly: Clapping)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: And Robert Washington,
17 Senior, National President, FRA.

18

19 (Assembly: Clapping)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: National Executive Director
22 would like to introduce the keynote speaker.

23

24 NED: Thank you, Shipmate Chairman, National
25 President, Captain Ross, Shipmates, Ladies

1 Auxiliary. This morning's keynote speaker is a
2 whole person by any professional measurement. As
3 noted in his bio, he is a native of Ashland,
4 Mississippi, just a few short miles from here,
5 from Memphis.

6 I will venture to say, Captain, that your
7 diversity of accomplishments and work ethics
8 started as a young man in your upbringing in the
9 great state of Mississippi.

10 Captain Ross enlisted in the United
11 States Navy as Boats Mate.

12

13 (Assembly: Clapping)

14

15 NED: That wasn't staged, either.

16

17 (Assembly: Laughing)

18

19 NED: This grading has gone through Level 3
20 except on the deck plates. Boatswain Ross, if I
21 may call you that, sir.

22

23 CAPTAIN ROSS: Yes, sir. You can.

24

25 NED: You didn't stick with any one class of

1 ship, warfare or rest on your laurels, but
2 quickly excelled and exceeded in your Naval
3 career. Captain Ross has served on aviation,
4 amphibious, fuels, ammunition, and submarine
5 repair ships at sea, both stateside and overseas.
6 He served in readiness and training as a
7 Correctional Specialist, and later on the board
8 of INSURV and Survey, our most dreaded, who those
9 of us who have been through INSURVs understand
10 that.

11 His extensive warfare knowledge and port
12 operations enabled him to become the Director of
13 Waterfront Operations under Commander, Navy
14 Region Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia, and that
15 is one heck of a large set of real estate, I
16 might add, too, with Norfolk.

17 Notable of all onshore assignments were
18 as Executive Officer of Naval Station, Newport,
19 Rhode Island, and at Guantanamo Bay Cuba. He was
20 director for Enlisted Distribution, PERS 40, the
21 Naval Military Personnel Command here in
22 Millington, and now as Commanding Officer of the
23 Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

24 Sir, I will remiss if I didn't mention
25 this, but I remember the great promise of a

1 former Director of Enlisted Personnel, PERS 40
2 MPC, who also served in Millington as Commanding
3 Officer of Naval Air Station, Captain Rick
4 Branch, and I don't know if you knew that, but
5 Rick was a great individual as a detailee.

6 Sir, these are benchmarks for the
7 enlisted deck place to -- as a Captain, which
8 encapsulated a milestone career that quickly
9 defines you as a leader. For this, we say, thank
10 you.

11 With your record, it took no surprise
12 that you were selected as Commanding Officer of
13 Navy Short Command. The only exception, perhaps,
14 and I quote from your bio, was a reluctance to
15 return to shore duty. After all, where do Boats
16 Mates belong?

17
18 (Assembly: Laughing)

19
20 NED: Sir, you are a neighbor with a mainstay of
21 wealth, from enlisted to lead Captain. You have
22 raised the bar of profound excellence which very
23 few can only dream of. We are honored to have
24 you as our keynote speaker, and we welcome you
25 aboard. May I introduce you to the oldest sea

1 service association of 95 years, the Fleet
2 Reserve Association.

3 Sir, we await your breadth of knowledge,
4 your wit.

5 Shipmates and Auxiliary Members, please
6 give a warm welcome to Captain Ross, United
7 States Navy, Commanding Officer, Naval Support
8 Activity Mid-South, Millington. Thank you.

9
10 (Assembly: Clapping)

11
12 CAPTAIN ROSS: Can you hear me?

13
14 (Assembly: Yes)

15
16 CAPTAIN ROSS: I will say when I was asked to
17 speak to you all's convention center, I said,
18 well, who am I going to speak to? If I want to
19 know anything, who better else to ask that
20 information from than the men and women that have
21 served here. Thank you for allowing me to come
22 out and talk to you guys about us. Ready,
23 Maddie?

24
25 MADDIE: We're having technical difficulties.

1 Just a moment while we --

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Got any sea stories?

4

5 CAPTAIN ROSS: Well, I do save some, but you have
6 to be careful nowadays with sea stories, but I do
7 find that it's great to be here. And I am proud
8 to be a Boatswains Mate. I will always be a
9 Boatswains Mate. I had my Admiral down when he
10 visited. And he said, well, Alonza, what do I
11 call you? I said, Boats. He's a lead captain,
12 now. And I thought, well, I always be Boats.
13 I'm proud of that, and I'm proud to be able to
14 help bring up the younger generations of our --
15 of our sailors -- our young sailors. It's
16 certainly different -- a different time than when
17 you all were leading this organization to now.

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Haze gray and underway,
20 sir?

21

22 CAPTAIN ROSS: Haze gray and underway.

23

24

25 (A video was played)

1 (Assembly: Clapping)

2

3 CAPTAIN ROSS: Thank you all for your patience.
4 And again, good morning, and thanks for having me
5 here today to be part of your conference. I want
6 to thank each of you for the service, and I'm
7 honored to have to watch all of those who have
8 gone before me.

9 And speaking of watch, I'd like to talk
10 to you about the watch. The watch is not stood
11 by ships, not carriers, not destroyers or
12 frigates. The watch is not stood by aircraft,
13 not jets, not cargo planes, not helicopters. And
14 in the 243 years, 244 next month, as we celebrate
15 another Navy birthday, bombs and bullets, I've
16 done a lot to improve our arms in battle, but
17 they have not stood the watch. Instead, it's our
18 people that stood the watch, our sailors and
19 marines, active and reserves, enlisted officers,
20 and today I'm going to tell you something about
21 some of those people.

22 Like Petty Officer Hernandez, she's from
23 Miami, Florida. She stands watch as a steel
24 worker in Pascagoula, Mississippi with the Seabee
25 battalion. She says she's proud to serve the

1 Navy because it brings honor, sense of pride in
2 knowing that she's part of the one percent who
3 wanted to serve her country.

4 Or Lieutenant Michael Murphy, who is from
5 Lebanon, Tennessee. He stands watch as a
6 navigator on board the USS New York. As most of
7 you know, that ship was literally forged from the
8 steel of the World Trade Center. He said that
9 almost every person serving on board that ship
10 was affected in some way by the events of
11 September the 11th. There aren't many mainstay
12 ships where you can attach yourself to what that
13 ship represents, but on board New York, it's a
14 connection made daily with everyone on board.

15 We have Petty Officer Hendricks from
16 Wilson, North Carolina. Petty Officer Wilson is
17 -- Hendricks is stationed out of Sasebo Japan on
18 board the USS Germantown. Some of you might
19 remember the Germantown. The unique thing about
20 Petty Officer Hendricks is that he's carrying on
21 a family tradition, as his father also served on
22 board that ship, albeit, it's a more modern
23 Germantown than in his father's day.

24 From Oak Harbor, Washington, we have
25 Petty Officer Felix (phonetic). He's a Naval

1 Aircrewman with Reconnaissance Wing 10. If you
2 know those guys, they fly the P-H beside it, and
3 they are always watching what's under the water.

4 These are just four of the more than
5 380,000 actives and reserves that we have
6 standing watch today, and I assure you each of
7 them has a story that if you heard it, your pride
8 in the nation would grow. Your anxiety about the
9 world around us will start to fade away. I can
10 tell you that the security of our nation is in
11 great hands.

12 So what about me and what I do out at the
13 Installation? And as most of you remember, it
14 used to be called the Air Station. We got to
15 celebrate our history over the past few years,
16 both the centennial military presence in the
17 area, and 75 years since the Navy made Mid-South
18 its home. I know that many people here thought
19 that when the planes stopped flying that we were
20 gone, but that's far from the case. We keep
21 carrying on the commission of support, services
22 and strength that spans more than a century.
23 It's a tradition I'm proud to carry on each day
24 as I put on this uniform.

25 When I'm out in the local community, I

1 get the opportunity to meet so many veterans like
2 yourself who served in this Installation I
3 command now. Knowing that I'm carrying on the
4 tradition of generations of veterans who have
5 gone before me makes my tour as a commanding
6 officer an extreme privilege.

7 So why are we here, a Naval base in
8 landlocked Tennessee? The answer to that goes
9 back to 1921, and a date that would live in
10 infamy. This location was the first to provide
11 the military as an Airfield Corps during its
12 infancy of military aviation more than 100 years
13 ago. The government began the process of
14 purchasing the land for a Park Field during World
15 War I, but the purchase was completed well after
16 the war. That's bureaucracy for you, and as of
17 today, that hasn't changed much.

18 After the attack on Pearl Harbor December
19 1941, the Secretary of the Navy at the time,
20 Frank Knox, decided that maybe it would be a good
21 idea to move some of the noncombative aviation
22 units inward to land so they weren't vulnerable
23 to attacks at sea. The DOD owned the land. So
24 at this point, the decision was made to move some
25 of the aviation training to Millington,

1 Tennessee. That aviation training continued for
2 more than 50 years here at the Naval base in --
3 at the Naval Air Station in Memphis.

4 After the base realized that a closure,
5 which we all know as BRAC, the decision was made
6 in 1993 and 1995 that commission shift from -- to
7 support the variety of administrative functions.
8 At first, the change was quite a shock, not only
9 to the community, but to those serving here at
10 that base. And it's no secret there were some
11 growing pains. But since 1998 when some of our
12 major tenants moved from D.C. and set up shop
13 here, the base has continued to grow and provide
14 support to any Defense Command that decides that
15 it needs space there. But now, all our eyes are
16 on the future.

17 I was asked to speak today about the
18 challenges of BRAC and the transition, but I'll
19 be honest with you, the Navy told Personnel a
20 good 25 years ago to make the change, and that's
21 what they did. It was 25 years ago. Most of the
22 military serving today wasn't even serving back
23 then. What remains of the Air Station is
24 captured in old Blue Jacket Newspaper and the
25 Millington Airport. I renewed comission -- I was

1 still on board the USS Artic, so I really can't
2 speak to the transition from the Installation
3 from '93 to '95.

4 What I can tell you is that 25 years
5 later people still miss that Air Station.
6 Believe me, I hear it every day, and I get it.
7 It's visual. It's cool. It's exciting. But
8 what we've been doing here at NSA Mid-South for
9 the last quarter century doesn't quite -- it's
10 not quite as cool, and it isn't, but that doesn't
11 mean the mission carried out at the landlocked
12 Naval base here in Tennessee isn't vital to the
13 Navy's mission.

14 So to me, as the current and 14th
15 Commanding Officer of Navy Support Activity
16 Mid-South, my biggest challenge is to help people
17 understand what we do here and how it impacts the
18 Navy, and the challenge to do that when most of
19 what we do here isn't cool, like flying airport
20 -- airplanes. Every day in Mid-South, thousands
21 of people are working behind the scenes on
22 missions, and recruiting, management, logistics,
23 finance, and nuclear monitoring to ensure our
24 national security and infrastructure are
25 operationally ready.

1 NSA Mid-South and many headquartered
2 Command stations here employ thousands of highly
3 skilled high-ranking positions. Some of you
4 might not have known that the economic impact of
5 the Department of Defense here in Shelby County
6 is 750 million dollars.

7 NSA Mid-South provides support to the
8 Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army Corps
9 of Engineers and the Coast Guard, not to mention
10 our local and Reserve Guard duties. It's a total
11 support to all military personnel and retirees in
12 a six-state area.

13 It's been a quarter century since we
14 took our new role in the Navy in supporting all
15 branches of service here at Mid-South. We
16 support 64 commands in our area of
17 responsibility, which are headed here by the
18 National Headquarters Basing Unit. Each Command
19 are fully much more, and are executed locally,
20 too, with a global impact. We're proud of our
21 history, but even more proud of the mission that
22 we are supporting here today to play a key role
23 in the national security.

24 So here's a breakdown of the personnel
25 and residents here on the base: The total

1 workforce of about 6500, making it one of the
2 largest employers in the area. It's important to
3 note the numbers of civilians who work here on
4 the base, both as civil servants and as
5 contractors. They outnumber our uniformed
6 members on base even when you include Reservists,
7 who only report here for drill weekends.

8 Our workforce provides the continuity
9 and support for the uniform deployment that they
10 serve to support deployment throughout the world.
11 Most are veterans, and many have decided to make
12 Millington and the surrounding area home to take
13 advantage of the advantages in their lifestyle
14 here. We have civilians on the base who have
15 lived here for more than 20 years. Our goal here
16 is to ensure that people can get their work done
17 safely and securely with the resources they need.

18 Let's look at where the Navy is today.
19 Underway right now we have the Nimitz, Abraham
20 Lincoln, Ronald Reagan and Boxer. Those are only
21 the big decks that's supporting their battle
22 groups. You won't see the subs here, but as we
23 know, they're super secret about their movings.

24
25 Do we have any submarines here?

1 (Two Delegates raise their hands)

2
3 CAPTAIN ROSS: Okay. Well, you know more than
4 anyone else what you all are. But now getting on
5 back, I was just out in Guam last week working
6 with the 44th Submarine Squadron, and she can
7 assure you that they know what they do. So with
8 all the ships, all the aircraft, all the bombs
9 and weapons systems, I think we can all imagine
10 what the Navy's most valuable critical weapon
11 system is, and it's our people.

12 As I said before, most of the bombs don't
13 get through National Security without sailors
14 standing and watching. Ships don't get out of
15 the way and aircraft don't take off without
16 sailors. Naval Support Activity Mid-South
17 supports its -- it supports the Navy's most
18 valuable asset and most important weapons system,
19 its people. Our new Chief of Naval Operations,
20 Admiral Gilday, echoed this in his recent message
21 to the fleet, and I'll let you hear what he has
22 to say.

23
24
25 (A video was played)

1 (Assembly: Clapping)

2

3 CAPTAIN ROSS: After the video, the video of the
4 ships, it certainly brings back memories,
5 especially memories of an old shipmate of mine
6 here, Rick Mahavey (phonetic). I tell you I've
7 been doing this much too long.

8 Hey, so what you were just looking at was
9 about 700,000 employees. And from NSA Mid-South,
10 we manage more than 330,000 active duty Navy
11 sailors from recruitment to retirement.
12 Additionally, at the Installation, we directly
13 support -- this number here will probably shock a
14 lot of you -- we support 58,000 Reservists when
15 they are active and on the annual training for
16 deployment. You would think how would we have
17 that many Reservists in this area, but landlocked
18 Tennessee has a lot going on.

19 So you ask: Why does that matter? So I
20 had to break that down, as a Boats Mate would,
21 something that I could understand. I think about
22 a simple cup of morning coffee. The beans that
23 make the latte have come from East Africa,
24 through the Gulf of Aden, straight through
25 Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez Canal, through the Strait of

1 Gibraltar, and then finally into New York's
2 harbor, one of the busiest ports on the eastern
3 seaboard, but that's more than just a cup of
4 coffee.

5 It's about the livelihood and the
6 livelihoods of our partners and friends. It's
7 about a global treaty and the freedom to apply
8 that treaty in a safe and free environment.
9 Freedom seeking and freedom of navigation are
10 vital to our economic and global security,
11 because one stop in the free flow of goods
12 affects millions of dollars in international
13 trading, and that matters.

14 So how do we ensure to get that cup of
15 coffee? I think you know the answer to that by
16 now. It's the people. And if we put that in
17 reverse order, starting going from Tennessee,
18 Navy Personnel Command identifies a need for
19 deployment, for a full deployed unit that will be
20 headed to the one after her in the next month or
21 within a year.

22 Navy Recruiting Command goes to work to
23 find the qualified applicant and gets them ready
24 for bootcamp. Then they head to A School to
25 learn how to draw blood like any foreman would do

1 -- do we have any foremen here? -- and give you a
2 whole box of Motrin. All the while, Navy
3 manpower acknowledges the base officer will
4 determine what the sailor needs to know to be
5 successful when they get to a Command.

6 After A School, the Navy Personnel
7 Command writes an order to therefore report to
8 the destroyer so the sailor can arrive on time
9 and deploy to Africa.

10 Well, in closing this year, you can see
11 each step of the way the mission board of NSA
12 Mid-South ensures the right sailor is at the
13 right place at the right time with the right
14 family. And you all can be safe knowing that we
15 have the march. Thank you for your time. Thank
16 you, again, for having me here today. And I'll
17 leave you with this last video to get you ready
18 for your conference.

19

20 (A video was played)

21

22 (Assembly: Clapping)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: We certainly appreciate your
25 remarks today. National President Washington,

1 will you kindly present a token of appreciation
2 from the FRA and Shipmates LA FRA.

3
4 NP WASHINGTON: Captain, on behalf of the
5 shipmates and the ladies of the Fleet Reserve
6 Association, Shipmates in the audience would like
7 to thank you for your kind presentation as the
8 FRA's guest speaker for today. On behalf of the
9 Shipmates and the Ladies of the 92nd FRA National
10 Convention, we would like to make a donation in
11 your name to our FRA Educational Foundation
12 Scholarship.

13
14 (Assembly: Clapping)

15
16 CAPTAIN ROSS: I think Mary gave me my
17 application.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: I would also like to present
20 you with one of our Association Chairman's coins,
21 a nice FRA letter opener --

22
23 CAPTAIN ROSS: Believe you me, I get a lot of
24
25 those.

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: -- and an FRA's mug so you
2 can have your coffee.

3
4 CAPTAIN ROSS: I have to have my coffee.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: And my last presentation to
7 you is going to be their -- beings that you are a
8 prior enlisted, I was going to present you with a
9 2-year complimentary membership to the Fleet
10 Reserve Association.

11
12 (Assembly: Clapping)

13
14 NP WASHINGTON: I want to thank you so much --

15
16 CAPTAIN ROSS: Thank you

17
18 NP WASHINGTON: -- for being here, and to present
19 before the Auxiliary Association. Thank you very
20 much, sir.

21
22 CAPTAIN ROSS: Thank you.

23
24
25 (Assembly: Clapping)

1 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Welcome aboard, Shipmate.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Shipmate Master-At-Arms,
4 would you approach and escort the Captain out in
5 the hall, please. (Tapping the gavel three times)

6

7 (Captain Ross was escorted out of the
8 conference hall.)

9

10 PNP COURNEYA: (Taps the gavel once) This year we
11 will not be having our yearly Spanish reading.
12 So good morning, y'all.

13

14 (Assembly: Good morning)

15

16 PNP COURNEYA: Welcome to Memphis. I would like
17 to introduce the eight regional vice presidents
18 who are elected and installed at the recent
19 Regional Convention. Please stand as I call your
20 name, and hold your applause until all are
21 introduced in each group.

22

Northeast New England, Lori Starkey.

23

24

25 RVP STARKEY: (Stands)

1 PNP COURNEYA: East Coast, Virginia Jordan.
2
3 RVP JORDAN: (Stands)
4
5 PNP COURNEYA: Southeast, Margaret Horvath.
6
7 RVP HORVATH: (Stands)
8
9 PNP COURNEYA: North Central, D.J. Hopkins.
10
11 RVP HOPKINS: (Stands)
12
13 PNP COURNEYA: South Central, John Neil.
14
15 RVP NEIL: (Stands)
16
17 PNP COURNEYA: Southwest, Aaron Jenson.
18
19 RVP JENSON: (Stands)
20
21 PNP COURNEYA: West Coast, Shelly Peckham.
22
23 RVP PECKHAM: (Stands)
24
25 PNP COURNEYA: And Northwest, Deanne Sisk.

1 RVP SISK: (Stands)

2

3 (Assembly: Clapping)

4

5 PNP COURNEYA: I would like to introduce our
6 Regional Presidents Elect. Please stand as I
7 recognize you.

8 Regional President Elect, Northeast New
9 England, Cindy Rodham-Tuck.

10

11 RPE RODHAM-TUCK: (Stands)

12

13 PNP COURNEYA: East Coast, Cristina Dixon.

14

15 RPE DIXON: (Stands)

16

17 PNP COURNEYA: Southeast, Gale Nathan.

18

19 RPE NATHAN: (Stands)

20

21 PNP COURNEYA: North Central, Margaret Peggy
22 Watkins.

23

24

25 RPE WATKINS: (Stands)

1 PNP COURNEYA: South Central, Gini Larson, PNP.

2

3 RPE LARSON: (Stands)

4

5 PNP COURNEYA: Southwest, Nadine Fulton.

6

7 RPE FULTON: (Stands)

8

9 PNP COURNEYA: West Coast, Brenda Horton

10

11 RPE HORTON: (Stands)

12

13 PNP COURNEYA: Northwest, Terri Johnson

14

15 RPE JOHNSON: (Stands)

16

17 (Assembly: Clapping)

18

19 PNP COURNEYA: A large number of past national
20 officers are here today. Will all past national
21 officers of the LA FRA please stand to be
22 recognized.

23

24

25 (Past national officers stand)

1 (Assembly: Clapping)

2

3 PNP COURNEYA: Thank you for being here.

4 I shall now introduce the Past National
5 Presidents of the LA FRA. Please stand as I call
6 your name, and please hold your applause.

7 Gail Johnson.

8

9 PNP JOHNSON: (Stands)

10

11 PNP COURNEYA: Doreen Huylebroeck.

12

13 PNP HUYLEBROECK: (Stands)

14

15 PNP COURNEYA: Ruth Evelyn.

16

17 PNP EVELYN: (Stands)

18

19 PNP COURNEYA: Linda Merton.

20

21 PNP MERTON: (Stands)

22

23

24

25 PNP COURNEYA: Pat Boudreaux.

1 PNP BOUDREAUX: (Stands)
2
3 PNP COURNEYA: Sandra Robbins.
4
5 PNP ROBBINS: (Stands)
6
7 PNP COURNEYA: Gail Doloway.
8
9 PNP DOLOWAY: (Stands)
10
11 PNP COURNEYA: Cindy Rodham-Tuck.
12
13 PNP RODHAM-TUCK: (Stands)
14
15 PNP COURNEYA: Gini Larson.
16
17 PNP LARSON: (Stands)
18
19 PNP COURNEYA: Diane Hoover.
20
21 PNP HOOVER: (Stands)
22
23 PNP COURNEYA: Carolyn Whitaker.
24
25 PNP WHITAKER: (Stands)

1 PNP COURNEYA: Doris Fri.

2

3 PNP FRI: (Stands)

4

5 PNP COURNEYA: Helen Courneya.

6

7 PNP HELEN: (Already standing)

8

9 PNP COURNEYA: And Jean Smith.

10

11 PNP SMITH: (Stands)

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Tell Helen to stand up.

14

15 PNP COURNEYA: I am standing up.

16

17 (Assembly: Clapping)

18

19 PNP COURNEYA: I will now introduce the national
20 officers of the LA FRA:

21 National Chaplain, Jackie Scarbro.

22

23

24

25 CHAPLAIN SCARBRO: (Stands)

1 PNP COURNEYA: National Parliamentarian, Doreen
2 Huylebroeck.

3
4 NP HUYLEBROECK: (Stands)

5
6 PNP COURNEYA: PNP Regional President Northeast
7 New England, Cindy Rodham-Tuck, PNP.

8
9 PNP RP RODHAM-TUCK: (Stands)

10
11 PNP COURNEYA: East Coast, Cristina Dixon.

12
13 RP DIXON: (Stands)

14
15 PNP COURNEYA: Southeast, Carolyn Whitaker, Past
16 National President.

17
18 PNP RP WHITAKER: (Stands)

19
20 PNP COURNEYA: North Central, Barbara White.

21
22 RP WHITE: (Stands)

23
24 PNP COURNEYA: South Central, Gini Larson, Past
25 National President.

1 PNP RP LARSON: (Stands)

2

3 PNP COURNEYA: Southwest, Peggy Noah.

4

5 RP NOAH: (Stands)

6

7 PNP COURNEYA: West Coast, Brenda Horton.

8

9 RP HORTON: (Stands)

10

11 PNP COURNEYA: Northwest, Markie Piper Protan.

12

13 RP PROTAN: (Stands)

14

15 PNP COURNEYA: And Junior Past National
16 President, Jean Smith.

17

18 JPNP RP SMITH: (Stands)

19

20 (Assembly: Clapping)

21

22

23 PNP COURNEYA: I'm not done. National Financial

24

25 Secretary, Pat Suckow.

1 NT SUCKOW: (Stands)

2

3 PNP COURNEYA: National Treasurer, Linda Telly.

4

5 NT TELLY: (Stands)

6

7 PNP COURNEYA: National Executive Secretary,
8 Doris C. Fri, Past National President.

9

10 PNP NES FRI: (Stands)

11

12 PNP COURNEYA: National Vice President, Bea
13 Parco.

14

15 NVP PARCO: (Stands)

16

17 PNP COURNEYA: And our National President,
18 Christina Murray.

19

20 NP MURRAY: (Stands)

21

22 (Assembly: Clapping).

23

24 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: I would like to ask the FRA
25 Regional Vice Presidents to stand as I introduce

1 you, and please hold your applause until all
2 introduced in each group.

3 Regional Vice President, Northeast New
4 England, Neil I. Ross.

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: He's not here.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: East Coast, Brian Jones

9
10 RVP JONES: (Stands)

11
12 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Southeast, Allen Hayes

13
14 RVP HAYES: (Stands)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: North Central, Jerome
17 Lickteig.

18
19 RVP LICKTEIG: (Standing)

20
21 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Hope I didn't mess it up too
22 bad.

23
24
25 RVP LICKTEIG: No, not bad.

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: South Central, Cathleen
2 Ursula Gruetzner. She's standing.

3 Southwest, Rogelio A. Bacud

4
5 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: He's not here.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: West Coast, William L.
8 Hanzel.

9
10 RVP HANZEL: (Stands)

11
12 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Northwest, Danny L. Hunt.

13
14 RVP HUNT: (Stands)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Thank you, Shipmates.

17
18 (Assembly: Clapping)

19
20 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Now, I would like to
21 introduce Past Regional Presidents. Please stand
22 when you are recognized.

23 Regional President Northeast New England,

24
25 Abe Zino.

1 RP ZINO: (Stands)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: East Coast, S.D. Martin.

4

5 RP MARTIN: (Stands)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Southeast, Laurie K. Bailey.

8

9 RP BAILEY: (Stands)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: North Central, Donald A.
12 Watkins, Junior.

13

14 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: He'll be back.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: South Central, Emmett H.
17 Smith, Junior.

18

19 RP SMITH: (Stands)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Southwest, John F. Quesnel,
22 Junior.

23

24

25 RP QUESNEL: (Stands)

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: West Coast, William S.
2 Matthews.

3
4 RP MATTHEWS: (Stands)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: And northwest, William H.
7 Hall.

8
9 RP HALL: (Stands)

10
11 (Assembly: Clapping)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: There's a large number of
14 past national officers in the FRA present this
15 morning. Time is not permitted me to introduce
16 individual introductions. So all national past
17 officers, please stand and be recognized.

18
19 (Past National Officers stand).

20
21 (Assembly: Clapping)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: I will now introduce Past
24 National Presidents of the FRA. Please stand
25 when you are recognized.

1 Donald P. Larson.

2

3 PNP LARSON: (Stands)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: John D. Ippert.

6

7 PNP IPPERT: (Stands)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Virgil B. Courneya, twice.

10

11 PNP COURNEYA: (Stands)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Mark A. Kilgore.

14

15 PNP KILGORE: (Stands) Once.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Gary C. Blackburn

18

19 PNP BLACKBURN: (Stands)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Lawrence G. Boudreaux, and I
22 am standing.

23 John W. Johnson.

24

25 PNP JOHNSON: (Stands)

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Robert G. Beese.

2

3 PNP BEESE: (Stands)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: And George P. Hyland.

6

7 PNP HYLAND: (Stands)

8

9 (Assembly: Clapping)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: I will now introduce the
12 national officers of the FRA, and please stand
13 when you are recognized.

14 National Chaplain Valerie Toulotte.

15

16 CHAPLAIN TOULOTTE: (Stands)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: National Parliamentarian,
19 George C. Hyland, PNP.

20

21 PNP NP HYLAND: (Stands)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Regional President,

24

25 Northeast New England, Joyce M. Harris.

1 RP HARRIS: (Stands)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Regional President, East
4 Coast, Randy L. Phillip.

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Past President.

7

8 RP PHILLIP: (Stands)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Regional President,
11 Southeast, James P. Richmond.

12

13 RP RICHMOND: (Stands)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Regional President, North
16 Central, Barry M. White, twice.

17

18 RP WHITE: (Stands)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Regional President, South
21 Central, Emmett H. Smith, Junior, first time.

22

23

24

25 RP SMITH: (Stands)

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Regional President,
2 Southwest, John F. Quesnel, Junior, his first one
3 also.

4
5 RP QUESNEL: (Stands)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: West Coast, William S.
8 Matthews, the new kid on the block.

9
10 RP MATTHEWS: (Stands)

11
12 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Northwest, William H. Hall.

13
14 RP HALL: (Stands)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Junior Past President,
17 William H. Starkey.

18
19 JPP STARKEY: (Stands)

20
21 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: And on my right on the stage
22 is National Executive Director, Thomas J. Snee.

23
24
25 NED: (Stands)

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: National Vice President,
2 Donna M. Jansky.

3
4 NVP JANSKY: (Stands)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: And National President,
7 Robert Washington, Senior.

8
9 NP WASHINGTON: (Stands)

10
11 (Assembly: Clapping)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Please be seated. Welcome
14 to Memphis, Tennessee. I'm hoping everybody is
15 enjoying their selves so far. We had Graceland
16 tour Monday, and everyone enjoyed themselves. We
17 had a outstanding bus driver for people that went
18 -- and we walked about five miles. It was all
19 inside the house and the grounds. It was a lot
20 of walking. Yesterday we went on a tour of
21 downtown. We stopped off at Saint Jude and went
22 inside for a visit at Saint Jude's Hospital with
23 the kids, and everyone said it was fascinating
24 that went. We got the tour tomorrow night to the
25 Liberty Bowl, which is Navy playing Memphis.

1 Tickets are sold out. We don't have anymore
2 tickets. The bus will be departing at 5 p.m.,
3 and returning about 10:00, 10:30 or after the
4 game. Hope Navy wins.

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Go Navy!

7

8 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Shipmate Burke --
9 Chairwoman.

10

11 DELEGATE BURKE: I think it was Mitt Fulton that
12 said, we'll get out a little early if Helen don't
13 get a mike. I think he's taking that for
14 everything that Virgil says, if I get a
15 microphone in my hand.

16

17 Elvis will be in the house this evening
18 at the Welcome Aboard. This evening we will only
19 be serving finger food. I'm sorry, but Mary
20 Penadofte (phonetic) said, no more big meals. So
21 it's just finger food for the evening.

22

23 We have a few things planned for this
24 evening during the event, so those of you who
25 will be joining us, we hope that you will enjoy
what we have lined up. Thank you.

1 (Assembly: Clapping)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Temporarily fixed. I would
4 like to now bring up guest speaker, National
5 Executive Director, Joseph Lawrence, for a report
6 on the status of the FRA Foundation.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Education Foundation.

9

10 (Assembly: Clapping)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Excuse me. FRA Education
13 Foundation.

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: That's better.

16

17 NED LAWRENCE: We have a couple of foundations.
18 Thank you, Shipmates. It's a pleasure to be with
19 you this morning. Talk a few minutes about the
20 education foundation, and what's happening with
21 our scholarship program.

22 The Foundation's work has all you -- all
23 of you that have heard me speak before know that
24 it's directly related to FRA's mission and
25 founding principles. The FRA offered

1 scholarships for about nearly three decades
2 before the foundation was established 10 years
3 ago at the 82nd National Convention.

4 The Foundation is a separate
5 organization. It's a 501(c)(3), whereas FRA is a
6 501(c)(19) veteran's organization. We have a
7 distinct governing documents. We have a separate
8 board of directors and IRS designation. Our
9 finances are maintained in separate accounts, and
10 audited annually. Please read the Foundation
11 National Convention Report. It's Tab T, I
12 believe, in the delegate kit, and there's more
13 information on what your -- your education
14 foundation is doing.

15 We've been authorized to participate in
16 the annual combined federal campaign or CFC since
17 2012. The CFD is administered by the Office of
18 Personnel Management. And the opportunity to
19 participate in the CFC was recently expanded to
20 include retirees. So it's possible to make
21 contributions via the My Pay account with the
22 Defense Finance Accounting Service or DFAS.

23 The campaign is underway this year. It
24 started a week ago, and it runs to 12 January
25 2020. The Foundation's also a member of the

1 Military Support Groups of America, which is a
2 federation of military veteran's groups certified
3 as America's best charities. It took us a number
4 of years to get to this point, and we're very
5 proud to be included with that federation.

6 These organizations meet high standards
7 of public accountability, program efficiency and
8 cost effectiveness. This year will be awarded 22
9 scholarships totaling \$93,000 to recipients in 16
10 states. This is thanks to Legacy Donations,
11 individual and branch donations, and other
12 contributions. We awarded a \$1,000 memorial
13 scholarship in honor of Regional President, North
14 Central, Rosemary Posekany, who died in a tragic
15 accident last year, and we presented a new \$2,000
16 scholarship funded by Navy Department Branch 181.

17 Scholarships make a big difference in the
18 lives of the recipients, and we need the help of
19 all shipmates and auxiliary members to help
20 spread awareness about the program and encourage
21 more college bound students to apply. Please
22 mention the foundation scholarships at branch and
23 unit meetings, and note that the 2020 scholarship
24 applications are now posted on the FRA website at
25 fra.org/foundation.

1 There's no secret that FRA and the
2 Auxiliary are facing challenges with sustaining
3 and/or growing membership. I know from
4 experience that today our scholarship program is
5 a major interest -- is of major interest --
6 excuse me -- to prospective members, and I urge
7 each of you to mention education foundation
8 scholarships when speaking to perspective members
9 of both organizations. Yesterday at the
10 Foundations board meeting, NED, Tom Snee
11 mentioned the fact that when he visits and speaks
12 at the Senior Enlisted Academy that there's
13 always a real positive reaction to the fact that
14 the FRA and the LA FRA have scholarship programs.
15 This is a very high-interest item, and please
16 remember to touch on that when you're interacting
17 with perspective members, speaking with active
18 duty groups, and so on.

19 The cost of education continues to rise,
20 and there's a growing need for assistance. The
21 last weekend I read a US Today copy in the hotel,
22 and screaming at the headline was the headline
23 that stated that the average student debt is at a
24 record \$29,200. It's no secret that education is
25 very, very important, and it's also no secret

1 that it costs a lot of money. Captain Ross spoke
2 about the importance of people, very important to
3 keep that in mind, and the fact that educating
4 shipmates or family members, students, what have
5 you, that's a key, key aspect of family life, and
6 it's a very major concern to everyone and their
7 families, so please keep that in mind.

8 The Foundation takes pride in maintaining
9 low administrative costs in conjunction with this
10 program. We're fortunate to have dedicated
11 volunteers to make this possible.

12 Corporate and individual contributions of
13 any amount are tax deductible, and we thank the
14 National President for presenting a recognition
15 letter acknowledging a contribution in the
16 Captain's name to the Education Foundation.
17 Thank you very much, Shipmate Cocke.

18 We also appreciate the West Coast region
19 taking a collection at their annual convention
20 for money and support of the Foundation's
21 scholarships.

22 It's also helpful to contact guidance
23 departments at local high schools to tell them
24 about the program. If you need some handouts,
25 contact National Headquarters and/or our

1 scholarships coordinator, Alicia Landis, and
2 we'll get some brochures and flyers out to you.

3 It's also important the participants in
4 the Americanism essay contest, particularly 11th
5 and 12th graders, be apprised to the program.

6 Finally, I wanted to talk a minute about
7 Amazon Smile. The Amazon Smile program
8 contributes one half of a percent of qualifying
9 purchases to designated charitable organizations.
10 The Education Foundation is registered in that
11 program, and those that select the Foundation
12 through a special web address will help Amazon
13 provide support for future awards. I brought
14 some handouts, they're light blue, on one of the
15 information tables out in the passageway. So if
16 you have an opportunity, pick up one of those.

17 All applications, including those for the
18 LA FRA scholarships are available in the FRA
19 website at, again, fra.org/foundation.

20 Thank you for your strong and continuing
21 support of the Foundation, and special thanks to
22 individual shipmates and branches for their
23 generous contributions to the program. Please
24 help spread the word. Thank you very much and
25 best wishes for a great week.

1 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Shipmate National Chaplain
2 Valerie Toulotte, Branch 24, will now conduct the
3 Two Bell Ceremony. (Taps the gavel three times)
4

5 CHAPLAIN TOULOTTE: The toll of the ship's helm
6 reminds us of the reverence we owe to our
7 departed Shipmates, (rings bell), and to those
8 who guard the honor of our country, (rings bell),
9 upon the sea, under the sea, (rings bell), in the
10 air and upon foreign soil, (rings bell). Let it
11 be a reminder of the faith they confide in us
12 (rings bell). Let us who gather here not forget
13 our obligations, (rings bell), and in silence
14 breathe a prayer for our absent shipmates (rings
15 bell).

16 (Rings bell) Each, in his own words, and
17 each, in their own way, bow your heads and let us
18 pray, (rings bell), offering a silent prayer for
19 our departed shipmates, (rings bell), who are now
20 serving on the staff of the Supreme Commander
21 (rings bell). This moment of reverence we
22 dedicate to the memory of our shipmates and
23 auxiliary members, (rings bell), Past National
24
25 President, James Scarbro (rings bell); Past

1 National President, Joseph Maez (rings bell).

2

3 (Moment of silence)

4

5 (Rings bell)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: (Taps gavel one time.) The
8 National Executive Director will now present
9 Convention Greetings.

10

11 NED: From the White House: "I send greetings to
12 those gathered in Memphis, Tennessee for the 92nd
13 Fleet Reserve Association National Convention.
14 Our nation is forever indebted to the men and
15 women of our armed forces and their families for
16 the remarkable service and immeasurable
17 sacrifices.

18

19 For nearly a century, the FRA navigated
20 through advanced policies that benefit enlisted
21 sailors, Marines and Coast Guard men. I commend
22 your efforts to ensure that the America's heroes
23 receive the attention and benefits they have
24 earned. Honoring this commitment to our service
25 members, veterans and the families is top
priority in my administration, but we can never

1 fully repay the debt our country that owes to
2 them. We have made substantial strides in
3 improving their lives and the lives of their
4 families.

5 Under my administration, our military
6 members received the largest pay raise in nearly
7 a decade. And during my first year in office, I
8 was pleased to sign into law, quote, the "Forever
9 GI Bill", unquote, which eliminated the 15-year
10 time limitation to use the post-911 GI Bill
11 benefits for veterans discharged from the active
12 duty on or after January 1st, 2013, ensuring that
13 these veterans have access to their education
14 benefits during their lifetime.

15 More recently, in March of 2019, I
16 launched the President's Roadmap to Empower
17 Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide
18 or called PREVENTS, initiative to help service
19 members better transition back to civilian life
20 and make certain that they have the mental health
21 resources that they need.

22 I look forward to working with
23 organizations like the FRA and to make our
24 America's heroes receive the attention and
25 hard-earned benefits that they so rightly

1 deserve. Melania joins me in thanking all our
2 men and women in uniform and their families for
3 their service. We send our best wishes for a
4 productive and memorable convention. May God
5 bless the United States." Signed, Donald Trump.
6 And this is an original. It's from the White
7 House.

8
9 (Assembly: Clapping)

10
11 NED: Greetings from the Fleet Reserve
12 Association on the occasion of your 92nd Annual
13 Convention. On behalf of the Department of the
14 Navy, please accept my congratulations and warm
15 greetings to you to hold your 92nd Convention.
16 The Navy and Marine Corps team has a
17 long-standing relationship with the Fleet Reserve
18 Association under common commitment to our
19 people.

20 I deeply appreciate the Fleet Reserve
21 Association's untiring support of our sailors and
22 marines, and grateful for your organization's
23 dedication and efforts on key personnel issues.
24 We're happy to see a better quality of life and
25 health care for our sea service members just help

1 increase a level of readiness and raised morale
2 within their ranks. I am grateful for your
3 support, and wish you a most successful event."
4 Signed Richard B. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy.

5

6 (Assembly: Clapping)

7

8 NED: "Please extend my heartfelt best wishes for
9 the men and women of the Fleet Reserve
10 Association as your organization gathers to
11 celebrate it's 92nd National Convention. The
12 longevity of your organization is a great
13 inspiration to the Department of Homeland
14 Security, DHS, during our 17 years of service to
15 our nation.

16 We must be committed to our DHA mission,
17 quote, 'with honor and integrity'. We will
18 safeguard the American people, our homeland, and
19 our values', unquote.

20 In my role at the helm of the Department,
21 I am privileged to be the service secretary for
22 the U.S. Coast Guard. On behalf of the men and
23 women of this sea point service, I salute the
24 Fleet Reserve Association for its dedication
25 sustaining efforts to maintain and improve the

1 quality of life for our sea services and their
2 families. Please continue extending your
3 important work supporting the needs of our active
4 duty, Reserves and retired military personnel
5 during this 92nd National Convention, that you
6 have the best one ever. Sincerely, Kevin
7 McAleenan, Acting Secretary, Department of
8 Homeland Security."

9 As some may or may not know, Memphis is
10 in their bicentennial year, so the mayor at the
11 office has not been able to come to our
12 Association because, as the Mayor's office has
13 told me, he's been pulled out in more ways than
14 one, which we knew, but we did receive a letter
15 from the Mayor of the City of Memphis.

16 "Welcome to Memphis and to the Fleet
17 Reserve Association National..." Conference, or
18 the "...Convention. We are delighted to have you
19 here in our bluff city. As a congressionally
20 chartered veteran service organization, the FRA's
21 mission is to provide representation for members
22 and families of the United States Navy, Marine
23 Corps and Coast Guard for pay, benefits, and
24 other entitlements earned through their service
25 in this country. For over 95 years, you have

1 been the dedicated advocates.

2 We are honored to have you in Memphis
3 this year for your 2019 convention, and it's the
4 perfect time for your visit. This is our
5 bicentennial year, and excitement is in the air.
6 Frommer's Travel Guides, the Travel Channel,
7 State of the Art Magazine, Trip Savvy have named
8 Memphis the place to be.

9 We are the birthplace of the gospel, Rock
10 and Roll, and the blues, and have much more to
11 offer than just the best of American music. The
12 National Civil Rights Museum, Graceland, Beale
13 Street, the Stax Museum, Sun Studios and the
14 Brooks Museum, to name a few, will keep you
15 inspired and entertained.

16 We encourage you to stroll our river
17 front, sample our worldwide famous barbecue, and
18 get to know the spirit, and the validity, and the
19 tradition that characterizes our great city.

20 Thank you for joining us in Memphis for
21 the Fleet Reserve National Convention. On behalf
22 of the citizens of this community in Shelby
23 County, I extend our deepest appreciation to all
24 our active duty service members and veterans for
25 protecting our lives, and for the freedoms we

1 enjoy as Americans." Signed, Jim Strickland,
2 Mayor of the City of Memphis.

3 The City of Memphis has also issued a
4 Proclamation that I will also read the original,
5 of which I'll turn over to our National
6 President, along with the letter that I just
7 received.

8 "The City of Memphis Proclamation.

9 Whereas, on September 25th, 2019, we
10 welcome the Fleet Reserve Association and its
11 members as they hold their National Convention in
12 Memphis, Tennessee.

13 And whereas, the Fleet Reserve
14 Association is a congressionally chartered
15 veteran's service organization that was
16 established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on
17 November 11th, 1924 just at the close of World
18 War I.

19 And whereas, our true strength as a
20 nation measured by how we care for our veterans
21 and honor them when they return home.

22 And whereas, for 95 years, the Fleet
23 Reserve Association has been working to preserve
24 and protect benefits and all the entitlement it
25 brings for the Sailors, Marine Corps, and Coast

1 Guard. The Association gives force to its
2 members' concern to continue to generate
3 significant improvements for the military
4 personnel and their families.

5 And whereas, extends best wishes to the
6 Fleet Reserve Association on such an occasion as
7 their National Convention and visit to the City
8 of Memphis.

9 Now therefore, be it proclaimed that I,
10 Jim Strickland, Mayor of the City of Memphis,
11 thank the Fleet Reserve Association for their
12 steadfast efforts to protect and enhance the
13 quality of life and earned benefit programs for
14 our veterans.

15 Be it further proclaimed that on behalf
16 of the citizens of the City of Memphis,
17 Tennessee, I express our deepest appreciation to
18 the members of the Fleet Reserve Association and
19 to all active duty military veterans for
20 protecting our lives and the freedoms we enjoy as
21 Americans.

22 In testimony whereof, I hereby set my
23 hand and caused the Seal of the City of Memphis
24 to be affixed this 25th day September 2019."
25 Signed, Jim Strickland, Mayor.

1 (Assembly: Clapping)

2

3 NED: Allow me to give you the official letters
4 that were received from the Mayor under his
5 signature for you --

6

7 (Presents official letters to
8 Chairman Boudreaux.)

9

10 NED: -- and also the Proclamation that I just
11 read, that you all may witness it, and I'm sure
12 that National President will share with you.

13

14 (Presents Proclamation from the City
15 of Memphis to Chairman Boudreaux.)

16

17 (Assembly: Clapping)

18

19 PNP COURNEYA: Madam National President, will you
20 please join me at the podium.

21

22

23 (Madam National President Christina

24

25 Murray approaches the podium.)

1 PNP COURNEYA: We, of the 87th LA FRA National
2 Convention Committee present you with this gift,
3 and we wish you a most productive, harmonious and
4 enjoyable convention.

5

6 (PNP Courneya presents gift to NP
7 Murray.)

8

9 (Assembly: Clapping)

10

11 PNP COURNEYA: I would now like to invite you to
12 speak to the Assembly.

13

14 NP MURRAY: National President Bob, Past National
15 Presidents, Auxiliary Members, Shipmates and
16 Honored Guests, I want to thank you for caring
17 enough about this organization, your branch, your
18 unit and those service members and their family
19 members which we serve. And I want to thank you
20 for being here today. You're helping to forge
21 the future. I would like for you to look around
22 the room and notice the number of red hats, gray
23 hats and yellow hats, and for us to grow we have
24 to grow the yellow hats.

25

A year ago I stood before you at the

1 National Convention in San Antonio, and I asked
2 you to support a project that was near and dear
3 to my heart, the National Family Operation Purple
4 Camps, and I want to thank you for your support.
5 Yesterday I was handed a check, and it put me
6 over \$10000 in donations.

7

8 (Assembly: Clapping)

9

10 NP MURRAY: But that wasn't me. That was you.
11 It was your dinners, your raffles, your
12 fundraisers, your bake sales, y'all attending
13 these dinners, buying the tickets, and it
14 couldn't have been done without you, and I want
15 to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

16 If one of the attendees at those camps
17 for healing adventures learns skills and reaches
18 out, and we prevent just one unnecessary death,
19 we will have done our part.

20 But today, I want to ask you that if you
21 have not picked up this band (indicating) off of
22 the VA table back there that you do so. And the
23 next time that you see someone at the side of the
24 road holding that sign that says, "I'm a veteran
25 and I need help", if you want to give them money,

1 go ahead, but the best help you can give them is
2 this little wristband with a phone number on it
3 or this little card with a number for them to
4 reach out and get the help that they so
5 desperately need.

6 National Executive Director, Tom, I want
7 to thank you. I know this week is bittersweet
8 for you, but I want to thank you for all the help
9 and support that you've given me and the
10 Auxiliary over the years while you've been the
11 executive director. Thank you. Give him a round
12 of applause, please.

13
14 (Assembly: Clapping)

15
16 NP MURRAY: Mary, Helen, and the rest of the
17 National Convention Committee, please stand.

18
19 (National Convention Committee
20 members stands).

21
22 NP MURRAY: Please give these men and women a
23 round of applause.

24
25 (Assembly: Clapping)

1 NP MURRAY: And thank you for everything that you
2 all have done to make this week go as smoothly
3 and sweetly as possible. At this time, I would
4 like to know if Margie Desemit (phonetic) is
5 here?

6
7 (Margie raises her hand)

8
9 NP MURRAY: Margie, would you please stand.

10
11 (Margie stands)

12
13 NP MURRAY: Sergeant At Arms Marshall, would you
14 please escort Margie to the alter in front,
15 please.

16
17 (Assembly: Clapping as Margie is
18 escorted to the alter)

19
20 NP MURRAY: (Taps gavel once) Margie, it is my
21 great honor to present to you a 50-year
22 certificate and a membership pin. You have been
23 a great leader in this organization, and it has
24
25 definitely been my honor to present this to you

1 today.

2

3 (Assembly: Clapping as Margie is
4 escorted to her seat)

5

6 NP MURRAY: I would like to announce a meeting.
7 At 1300, the Auxiliary will be meeting over here
8 to your far, far right (indicating) -- my left,
9 their right. And immediately following this, the
10 Past National Presidents, both FRA and LA FRA,
11 remember to remain in the room to have your
12 picture taken. Appreciate it.

13

14 (Assembly: Clapping)

15

16 PNP COURNEYA: Thank you, National President
17 Christina. I would like to introduce our nurse
18 for the rest of the week. Her name is Kelly Pans
19 (phonetic), Past Regional President West Coast.
20 Would you please stand, Kelly.

21

22 (Kelly stands)

23

24 PNP COURNEYA: I will be giving out her phone
25 number, and we will have it in the hospitality

1 room, if anybody needs it. So if you feel ill or
2 if you fall down or whatever, call Kelly. Don't
3 call me. Just joking. Just joking. You can
4 call me. Anyway, her phone number is (408)
5 642-7722. Thank you, Kelly, for being here.

6 The only other thing I have to announce
7 is you will need your welcome aboard ticket this
8 evening coming through the door, and we will have
9 a bar in the hospitality room. Thank you.

10 The FRA PNP luncheon, tickets required,
11 will be in Perkins 1 at 11:15. The LA FRA PNP
12 luncheon, ticket required, will be in Perkins 2
13 at 11:15. The FRA RP RPE Elect and RVP luncheon,
14 ticket required, will be in the Thousand Oaks
15 Ballroom Lower Level at 11:15. The LA FRA RP RPE
16 and RVP luncheon, ticket required, will be in the
17 Thousand Oaks Ballroom on the upper level at
18 11:15.

19 Today, the hotel will be providing lunch.
20 It will be salad, soups and assortment of
21 sandwiches in the dining room for purchase for
22 those who will not be attending any of the
23 luncheons. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: Shipmate National President,

1 would you join me at the rostrum -- podium,
2 rostrum, whatever.

3
4 (NP Washington approaches the
5 rostrum.)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BOUDREAUX: On behalf of the FRA's 92nd
8 National Convention Committee, it is my pleasure
9 to present you with this gift, and wish you a
10 successful and enjoyable convention.

11
12 (Chairman Boudreaux presents gift
13 to NP Washington.)

14
15 NP WASHINGTON: Thank you, Shipmate. It's my
16 Mango Tequila. Every time I see y'all, I'd say,
17 where's my tequila, at the West Coast Convention?
18 He said, I'll take care of you. Thank you very
19 much.

20 But I'd also like to say, you know, it's
21 tough falling behind (holds gavel up). It is
22 certainly tough for me to have to follow
23 Christina. I think we were in the Southwest
24 Region, and she went before me, and she had a
25 long presentation. I'm, like, (makes a noise).

1 So with that said, the first business session of
2 the 92nd National Convention will be convened
3 promptly at 1300 today, and in the grand
4 ballroom, C and D, and I will see you Shipmates
5 there. Thank you.

6

7 (Assembly: Clapping)

8

9 NP MURRAY: I hereby convene 87th National
10 Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary Fleet Reserve
11 Association.

12

13

14

15 NP WASHINGTON: And I will gladly convene the
16 92nd National Convention of the Fleet Reserve
17 Association.

18

19 (Taps gavel once)

20

21

22 (Whereupon, the Opening Ceremony was
23 recessed at 10:32 a.m.)

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TENNESSEE:

COUNTY OF SHELBY:

I, CINDY SWORDS, Licensed Court Reporter
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Transcriber, Internationally Certified Digital
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