

YOUR MISSION • YOUR VOICE

FRA *today*

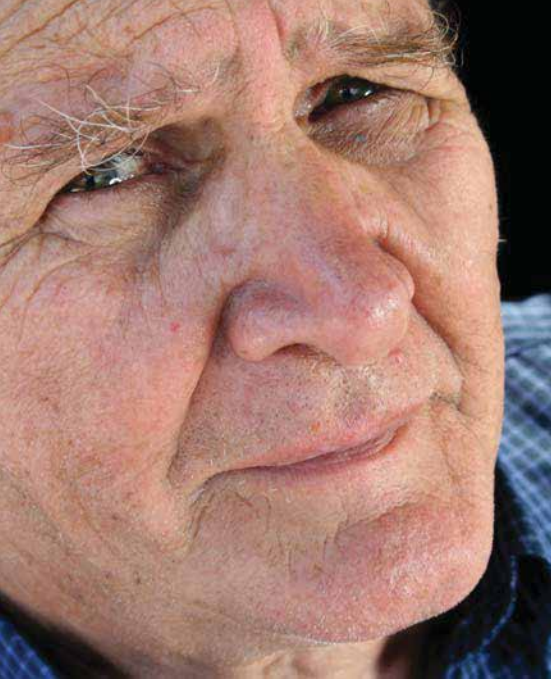


D

eveloping
Strong Enlisted
Leaders 18

- 2 NED Position Opening
- 12 FRA Honors Outstanding Marines
- 29 FRA's Book of Memories

MESOTHELIOMA



**You don't
have to fight
this alone.**

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with, or died from asbestos related **lung cancer** or **mesothelioma**, we may be able to help you get monetary compensation from the asbestos companies.

With over 65 years of collective experience in asbestos litigation, the professionals at Bergman Draper Ladenburg welcome the chance to provide you with the highest quality representation and the individual attention you deserve.

Call for information and a free consultation.

The Northwest's Leading Asbestos Litigation Firm

**BERGMAN
DRAPER
LADENBURG**

614 First Avenue
4th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

206.957.9510
888.647.6007 Toll Free
www.bergmanlegal.com

**We accept cases
throughout the
United States and
Canada**

Featured

18 DEVELOPING STRONG ENLISTED LEADERS

MCPON Mike Stevens is calling for daily demonstrations of leadership by example in preparing the Navy's future Chief Petty Officers.



Departments

2 COMMUNICATIONS

5 FROM THE BRIDGE

NP Mark Kilgore Visits Pearl Harbor

6 SHIPMATE FORUM

8 ON & OFF CAPITOL HILL

Budget Fix Still Needed

16 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

29 HISTORY & HERITAGE

FRA's Book of Memories

30 TAPS

31 REUNIONS

32 LOOKING FOR...

34 NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

36 FRA AUXILIARY NEWS

Message from Southeast Regional President Babe Kilgore



LOYALTY, PROTECTION AND SERVICE

FRA IS A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR CURRENT AND FORMER ENLISTED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD ON CAPITOL HILL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FRA.ORG OR CALL 800-FRA-1924.

ON THE COVER

Navy Chief Petty Officers are often referred to as the "backbone of the Navy" and new initiatives are being implemented to prepare First Class Petty Officers for their future responsibilities as Chiefs.



Mark A. Kilgore

NED Position Opening

I AM BORROWING THIS space this month in addition to my "From the Bridge" article (page 5) to announce the opening of the National Executive Director (NED) position at the end of October following the 86th National Convention in Chattanooga, Tenn. In January, NED Joe Barnes notified me by letter that he would not be seeking another three-year term. Therefore, the NED position will be open for nominations and election by delegates at the 86th FRA National Convention in accordance with the FRA Constitution & By-Laws (C&BL).

Related to this, the newly-established Future Planning Committee is in the process of writing several resolutions to change the NED position from the currently elected three-year term as it now appears in Sec. 808, FRA C&BL, to a National Board of Directors (NBOD) "interview and hire" position. This is not a new idea and this change was recommended by the National President's Special Organizational Committee in its 2002 report to the NBOD and, since then, it has been on the "back burners." The Committee also recommended, and delegates approved, changing the position of National Financial Secretary (NFS) from an elected, three-year term of office to our current hired Finance Officer in 2005. In addition, the Committee resolutions may also change some of the NED duties in the future.

This issue will be discussed during the upcoming NBOD mid-year meeting and how the next NED is selected will ultimately be up to the delegates in Chattanooga this fall. Either way, we have an extremely important and vital position opening up and all qualified candidates are welcome and encouraged to apply, including our Member-at-Large (MAL) Shipmates. In addition to Sec. 808, FRA C&BL, a copy of the NED job description is posted on our website in the *Current News* section at www.fra.org.

MALs desiring to run for the NED position would also need to affiliate first with an FRA Branch in order to be nominated by resolution to fully comply with the FRA C&BL. All candidates should also be prepared to submit a resume. Regardless of the action taken by the delegates at the 86th National Convention, the Shipmate selected as the next NED must relocate to the metropolitan D.C. area at his/her own expense, if not already residing there.

Resolutions regarding the NED position as well as all other resolutions will be promulgated to the branches in accordance with the FRA C&BL Article 6, Section 611, usually the first week in August via NED Memorandum.

For more information and/or to submit questions, please contact me at np@fra.org, or questions can be directed to NVP Courneya (mgysgtvpcc@att.net), NED Barnes (ned@fra.org), or PNP Maez (Future Planning Committee Chair) (jmaez@sbcglobal.net).

NATIONAL OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National President	Mark A. Kilgore, <i>Pensacola Branch 22</i>
National Vice President	Virgil P. Courneya, <i>High Sierra Branch 274</i>
National Executive Dir.	Joseph L. Barnes, <i>Navy Department Branch 181</i>
Finance Officer	Paul Rigby, <i>Honorary Member</i>
Junior PNP	Jeffrey A. Gilmartin, <i>Potomac Branch 207</i>
National Parliamentarian	PNP Bob Beese, <i>Volusia County Branch 335</i>
National Chaplain	Earnest Reed, <i>Tallahassee Branch 34</i>

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

New England	Paul F. Loveless Jr., <i>Pinetree Branch 156</i>
Northeast	David Munday III, <i>Lakehurst Branch 124</i>
East Coast	Donald A. Hoover, <i>Annapolis Branch 24</i>
Southeast	James E. Robbins Jr., <i>First Coast Branch 91</i>
North Central	John W. Partin II, <i>Greater St. Louis Branch 267</i>
South Central	Robert A. Holcomb, <i>Capital Area Branch 201</i>
Southwest	Charles Baker, <i>Fabulous Vegas Branch 90</i>
West Coast	Shane S. Dunstan, <i>Salt Lake City Branch 185</i>
Northwest	Margret A. Burke, <i>Inland Empire Branch 38</i>

ACTIVE DUTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy	Michael Stevens
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps	Micheal Barrett
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard	Michael Leavitt

RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve	Chris Wheeler
USMC Reserve Force Sergeant Major	James Booker
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force	Mark Allen

FRA TODAY MAGAZINE

Publisher	FRA
National Executive Director	Joseph L. Barnes
Communications Director	Lauren Armstrong
Managing Editor	Eileen Murphy
Design and Art Direction	
FIREBRAND, Alexandria, VA	www.firebrandstudios.com
Design Director	Scott Rodgeron
Production Manager	Sandy Jones

FRA TODAY (ISSN 0028-1409) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY FRA, 125 N. WEST ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754. A MEMBER'S SUBSCRIPTION IS COVERED BY THE MEMBER'S ANNUAL DUES. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT ALEXANDRIA, VA AND ADDITIONAL OFFICES. PUBLICATION OF NON-SPONSORED ADVERTISING IN *FRA TODAY* DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE FRA OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MEMBER SERVICES, FRA, 125 N. WEST ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754.** *FRA TODAY* IS PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CURRENT AND FORMER ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE U.S. NAVY, MARINE CORPS, AND COAST GUARD. ELIGIBLE NON-MEMBERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO SUBSCRIPTION RATES. ESTABLISHED 1 NOVEMBER 1923. TITLE REGISTERED WITH U.S. PATENT OFFICE.

FRA ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS: 125 N. WEST ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754
PHONE: 703-683-1400, 800-FRA-1924 • FAX: 703-549-6610 • E-MAIL: FRATODAY@FRA.ORG
WWW.FRA.ORG

VOLUME 92 NUMBER 3





FREE
\$99 earrings
with purchase
of Sunburst
Ring

82%
Less
than the
independently
appraised
value*

Is this the Most Dangerous Ring in History?

Our Peridot Sunburst Ring delivers legendary green with none of the risk for only \$99!

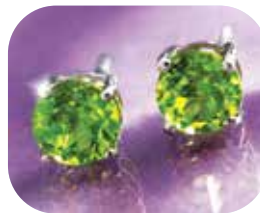
You have to feel sorry for Cleopatra. Her passion for rare green gems was legendary. But finding them was hard (and dangerous work). Bringing home a ring like this meant sending her soldiers around the world. Few would return. Success was not guaranteed. Today, you have us. And we've made it much easier to bring home this ancient treasure.

One call gets you the *Peridot Sunburst Ring*, two carats of gorgeous, glittering green set in .925 sterling silver for only \$99! Unless of course, you'd prefer to do things the old-fashioned way...

Shopping on the "Isle of Serpents." Zagbargad was a remote volcanic island in the Red Sea, shrouded in fog, surrounded by jagged reefs and overrun with serpents. But it was the only place on the planet to find the mysterious green stones known as peridot. Cleopatra wanted them... all of them. And when it came to pleasing the queen, there was no room for cowards.

A luxury legend is reborn. Egyptian sailors dubbed peridot "Emerald of the Evening" for its ability to shimmer in the moonlight. Its mysterious beauty was hailed through history. And part of what makes the stone so special is that it naturally occurs in only one color: a

radiant and gorgeous green. This ring captures that rare and remarkable hue in an elegant corsage of marquise-cut peridot, set in .925 sterling silver. We've arranged all 18 gems in a blossom of fiery facets that ignite brilliantly in any light!



EXCLUSIVE!
Get these \$99
1 ctw peridot
studs **FREE**
with your ring
purchase!

Forget the old rules of fine jewelry. We took the *Peridot Sunburst Ring* to an independent appraiser who works with auction houses, estate sales and insurance companies. He valued it at \$540. We thanked him for his professional opinion and then ignored it. Because even if a certified gemologist tells us that this ring is valued at over \$500, we still want you to wear it for ONLY \$99! Plus, when you bring home the ring, **you'll receive a pair of 1 ctw genuine peridot stud earrings (a \$99 value)... absolutely FREE!**

Your satisfaction is guaranteed. Odds are that you'll fall in love with the *Peridot Sunburst Ring*. But if for some

reason you don't, just send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of your purchase price. Only Stauer can transform the "Most Dangerous Ring in History" into the "Safest Bet in Luxury Jewelry." Cleopatra would be green with envy!

JEWELRY SPECS:

- 2 ctw of genuine peridot
- .925 sterling-silver setting

Peridot Sunburst Collection

Ring (2 ctw) Appraised at ~~\$540.00~~ *
\$199.....**Call-in only price \$99**

FREE \$99 peridot stud earrings with purchase of Peridot Sunburst Ring
Necklace (3 3/5 ctw) ~~\$199~~...**Only \$99**
Ring, necklace & earrings set—~~\$497~~
Now only.....\$179 Save \$318

Call now to take advantage of this fantastic offer.

1-888-324-6504

Promotional Code PSC185-01
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. PSC185-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com



* For more information concerning the appraisal, visit <http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp>.

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices

Introducing

The Jacuzzi Walk-In Hot Tub... your own personal fountain of youth.

*The world's leader in hydrotherapy and relaxation
makes bathing safe, comfortable and affordable.*

Remember the feeling you had the first time you got into a hot tub? The warm water, the energizing bubbles and the gentle hydrotherapy of the jets left you feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. Aches and pains seemed to fade away, and the bubbling sound of the water helped put you in a carefree and contented mood. The first time I ever got in a hot tub at a resort, I said to myself "One of these days I'm going to have one of these in my home- so I can experience this whenever I want." Now that I'm older, I'd still like to have the pain relief and relaxation, but I have to be careful about slipping and falling in the bathroom. That's why I was thrilled to find out that Jacuzzi had combined the safety of a walk-in bath with the benefits of a hot tub. Now that I have one in my home I can have that luxurious resort experience... whenever I want.

The moment you step into your Jacuzzi Walk-In Hot Tub you'll see the superior design and the quality of the craftsmanship. The entry step is low

and the door is 100% guaranteed not to leak. The high 17" seat enables you to sit comfortably while you bathe and to access the easy-to-reach controls. Best of all, your tub comes with the patented Jacuzzi PointPro™ jet system- which gives you a perfectly balanced water-to-air ratio to massage



you thoroughly but gently. These high-volume, low-pressure pumps are arranged in a pattern that creates swirls and spirals that provide both a total body massage and targeted treatment of specific pressure points. The tub features a high gloss acrylic

Why Jacuzzi is the Best

- ✓ **Easy and Safe Entry** - Low entry, leakproof door allows you to step safely into the tub.
- ✓ **Durable and Easy to Clean** - State of the art acrylic surface.
- ✓ **Comfortable Seating** - Convenient 17 inch raised seat.
- ✓ **Worry Free Enjoyment** - Thanks to Jacuzzi's Lifetime Limited Warranty.
- ✓ **Maximum Pain Relief** - Therapeutic water AND air jets.
- ✓ **Relax Fully** - All controls are within easy reach.
- ✓ **Personalized Massage** - Adjustable back jets for pinpoint control.
- ✓ **No Hassle Installation** - Designed to fit in your existing tub space.

coating which is more durable, scratch resistant and easier to clean than traditional gel-coat surfaces. It's American made with full metal frame construction and comes with a lifetime warranty on both the tub and the operating system.

Isn't it time you rediscovered the comfort and luxury of a soothing therapeutic hot tub experience again? Call now and knowledgeable product experts will answer any questions and explain how easy and affordable it can be. Don't wait, call now.



New! Jacuzzi® Walk-In Hot Tub

For information call:

1-877-645-9141

Call now Toll-Free and mention your special promotion code 49340.

Third-party financing available with approved credit.
Not Available in Hawaii and Alaska

All rights reserved. © 2013 firstSTREET®, Inc. For Boomers and Beyond®

80439



Mark A. Kilgore

SHIPMATES, IT CONTINUES TO be an honor and privilege to serve as your National President. In December, I attended the 71st Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. LA FRA NP Diane Hoover and I had the rare opportunity to attend an internment onboard the USS Arizona. Seaman First Class Wallace F. Quillin was on the USS Arizona on December 7, 1941; and, his last wish was to rejoin his shipmates. Although there were no family members present, the Arizona Memorial was packed with people wishing to pay their respects including Pearl Harbor Survivor and Branch 296 Shipmate Lewis Conter, who also was aboard USS Arizona that fateful day.

In January, our Renewal Notices began being done at National Headquarters and I am hopeful that, with the personalization added to the notices, it will help to decrease the number of Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) losses we experience each month. We only need to reinstate 304 shipmates each month to show a gain. That is just over one reinstatement per branch. Surely we can do that.

This month, I will have the opportunity to present our legislative agenda on Capitol Hill to a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. Communicating

with our elected officials is more important than ever, due to major threats to pay, healthcare and benefits, and the fact that each succeeding Congress has fewer and fewer veterans. The 113th Congress is no exception. With the increasing national debt and rising healthcare costs, military and veteran compensation issues unfortunately are in the crosshairs for major cuts. Our voice must remain loud and strong on Capitol Hill to protect what we now have.

The FRA not only represents us, but essentially *is* us. We each need to take ownership of our Association. How do we do this? Simply by becoming involved on the local, regional or national level. I read in one of the many branch newsletters I receive a comment about the fact that both National Vice President Courneya and myself ran unopposed for National Office last year. The comment reflects a lack of candidates for various leadership positions in our great Association.

During the past fifteen years, there have been multiple candidates for the office of National Vice President nine times (or 60 percent of the time) to include this current year. The current National Board of Directors has two regional presidents serving either multiple or consecutive terms. Many

of the branches that have surrendered their charters over the past several years cited a lack of willing shipmates to serve and fill the required minimum number of offices to function as the reason for the branch's demise.

Now, more than ever, we need to become involved. This does not have to be all-consuming of your time. It may be just devoting one hour a month to attend a branch meeting or taking a few minutes to go to the FRA website (www.fra.org) to submit an Action Center e-mail to your senator or representative on a piece of legislation. Those on Capitol Hill who receive and review those e-mails indicate that they believe each one received is probably representative of another twenty-five constituents. Your opinion matters, but it only counts if you make it known to your elected officials.

As I am "out and about" in the various regions, I look forward to meeting with you and hearing your concerns and suggestions. You can e-mail me at bingowidower@cox.net or you can write to me in care of the National Headquarters at 125 N West St, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please do not hesitate to contact me at np@fra.org.



Left: National President Mark Kilgore poses with the FRA wreath during ceremonies at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (Right) NP Kilgore and Auxiliary RPSE Babe Kilgore flank a Pearl Harbor Survivor.



Diabetes

Great going on your diabetes story. My immediate family and I have been blessed to have never had a diabetic in the clan, but I am considering donating any organs of value, upon death, for research in this “killer” field. Maybe some others would be interested in doing the same?

Dan Daniel



Divers to the Rescue

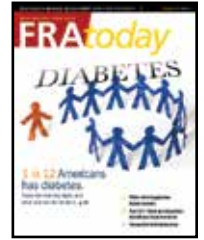
I was stationed on a submarine-rescue vessel, the USS Kittiwake (ASR-13). It seemed that over half of our ship's complement were divers, some of whom were qualified to handle deep dives of up to 300 feet. A fellow Sailor sent me pictures of ships and conditions at Pearl Harbor after the 1941 attack. In those pictures was the diving bell on the fantail of the USS Widgeon (ASR-1). She was undamaged during the attack and berthed at the Submarine Base. I imagine the men on that ship were key personnel in the salvage and rescue efforts.



Lorence F. Brown

Fond Memories of Big E

I want to take a moment to thank FRA Today for the “Farewell to USS Enterprise” article. I got misty eyed, as it brought back fond memories of my 21-year Navy career. Seventeen of those years were served right there in the Norfolk/Hampton Roads/Newport News/Virginia Beach area. I loved it and miss it dearly.



Even though I never served aboard the Big E for duty as a crew member, I did go aboard quite a few times to carry out official errands and rate cross-training assignments. She was a huge, squared-away carrier.

Thanks again for the moment. Y'all do a 4.0 job reporting for FRA Today. Bravo Zulu! Keep up the good work and keep on keeping on.

James Foster

Military, Middle Class Bear the Brunt

First I would like to thank you for all the hard work you do to keep and/or increase our benefits. I'm sure it's like slamming your head against a brick wall. All of us veterans and active duty appreciate it.

Second I read with great interest and dismay the article about trying to cut more of our benefits and frankly am quite sick of all the hard working middle class and military people always taking the brunt of the cuts and tax increases. Why don't we ever hear of our Senators, Congressmen and women, Capitol Hill government workers, etc., ever giving up their benefits and/or pay increases to help cut down on costs? Why don't they, or the people, come up with a new pay and benefits package for them and term limits. If our representatives on Capitol Hill were required to take part in all the programs they vote in for the general public, they would be more likely not be so quick to vote something in or work harder at making it work for all, including them.

Wendy Stace

FRA Response: FRA strongly agrees that current and former military personnel have already paid more than their fair share to support our nation and that the federal budget shouldn't be balanced on their backs. But to be fair, federal employees have been under a pay freeze since January of 2010. DoD is proposing a one-percent military pay increase in 2014 and there are press reports that the Administration wants to lift the freeze and provide federal employees, including members of Congress, a one-percent pay raise at that time.

ONLY \$12.95! Uncirculated 30-Coin Set!

NEW State Quarters!
Honoring America's National Parks

Time is running out! Don't miss out on this 30-coin set of Uncirculated 2010-2012 National Park quarters! Prized by collectors, the issues from the series' first three years were struck in limited quantities and WILL NEVER BE MINTED AGAIN! But now, with this special offer, you can own Uncirculated P&D issues of all fifteen 2010-2012 designs for just \$12.95!

Get the 30-Coin Uncirculated Set!
Enjoy a special savings of 54% off the regular price of \$28.50, and get FREE shipping to your home. Plus, order now and you'll also receive a **FREE** Uncirculated 2010 Lincoln cent – first with the new Union Shield reverse.

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. **Order your 30-coin set today!**

Each minted for about ten weeks, then never again – order now!
To order, please mail coupon or visit us at www.LittletonCoin.com/specials

SPECIAL SAVINGS! Add Custom 2010-2015 P&D National Park Display Folders & SAVE 25% at \$2.95 each (regularly \$3.95)

45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

FREE Gift! when you order by deadline Get an Uncirculated 2010 Lincoln Cent – first issue with new Union Shield reverse!

YES! Please send me the 30-Coin Set of Uncirculated 2010-2012 America's National Park Quarters for ONLY \$12.95 – regularly \$28.50, plus Free Shipping (limit 5 sets). Also send my **FREE** Uncirculated 2010 Union Shield Cent (one per customer please).

Method of payment: Check or Money Order payable to Littleton Coin Co. VISA MasterCard American Express Discover Network

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Address _____ Apt# _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send coupon to: **Littleton Coin Company**, 1309 Mt. Eustis Road, Littleton, NH 03561-3737. America's Favorite Coin Source. ESTABLISHED SINCE 1945.

How Many Sets (limit 5): _____ Total Cost at \$12.95 per set: \$ _____ Shipping & Handling: \$ **FREE!** Total Amount: \$ _____ Dept. 2XX400

Submissions Send *Shipmate Forum* letters to Editor, FRA Today, 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail submissions may be sent to fratoday@fra.org. Please include “Shipmate Forum” in the subject line. FRA reserves the right to select and edit letters for publication. Letters published in *Shipmate Forum* reflect the opinions and views of FRA members. They do not necessarily reflect the official position of FRA as a whole. FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content.

★★★ TO HONOR YOUR SERVICE TO COUNTRY ★★★

EXCLUSIVE UNITED STATES NAVY DIAMOND DRESS WATCH

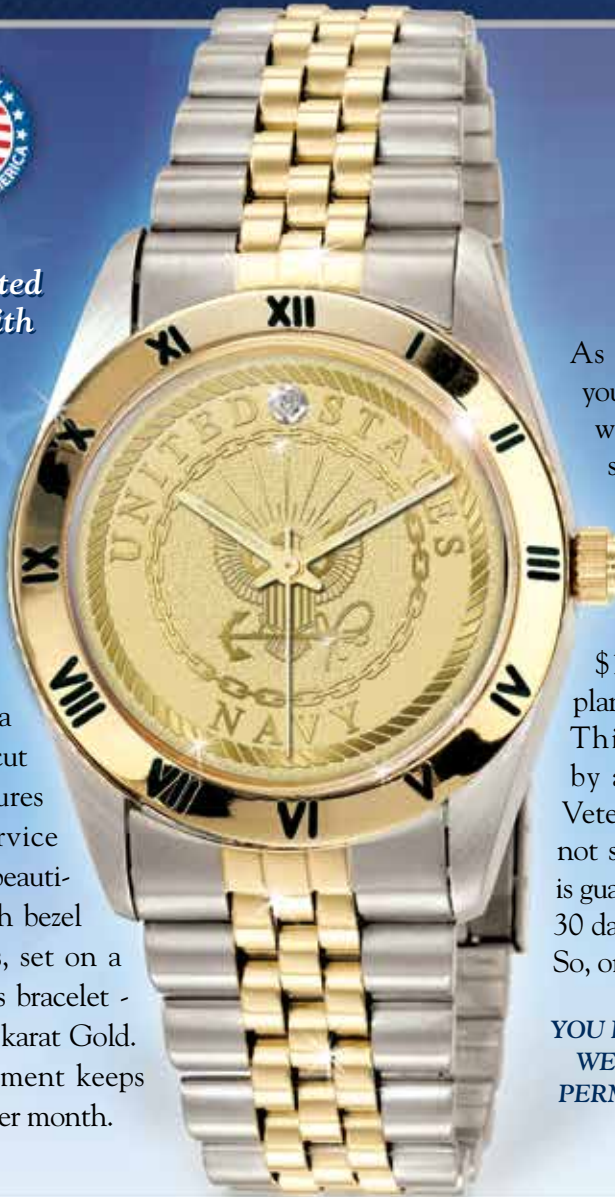
Personalized With Your Initials & Service Years



Featuring Our Official Navy Emblem Dial, Minted in High Relief and Set with a Brilliant Diamond at 12 O'clock.

We proudly present our exclusive United States Navy Diamond Dress watch, to honor those who have bravely served our Country.

A special dial, minted like a fine coin and set with a full-cut diamond at 12 o'clock, captures every fine detail of your Service Branch Emblem. The dial is beautifully framed in a golden watch bezel with etched roman numerals, set on a two-tone watch case and dress bracelet - all decorated with genuine 24 karat Gold. The fine quartz watch movement keeps accurate time within seconds per month.



As a final touch of exclusivity, your watch back will be engraved with your full name and years of service, and delivered in a handsome gift box - perfect for Father's Day, Birthdays and Holidays.

Thank You priced at just \$125*, an affordable payment plan is available with no interest. This fine watch is designed by and created exclusively for Veterans Commemoratives™. It is not sold in stores. Your satisfaction is guaranteed 100% or return within 30 days for a refund or replacement. So, order today with confidence.

YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO WEAR THIS UNIQUE WATCH AS A PERMANENT REMINDER OF YOUR SPECIAL PLACE IN HISTORY.



FREE FLAG PIN WITH EACH ORDER

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-255-3048
Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit Card ready when ordering.

OR, MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™ Watch Order Center
Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

YES. I wish to order a U.S. Navy Diamond Dress Watch, personalized with my full name and years of service.

_____ to _____
FULL NAME TO ENGRAVE (Print clearly) **YEARS SERVED**

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

- Enclosed is my check or money order for \$125* per watch payable to "Veterans Commemoratives" as payment in full, OR
- Charge my credit card \$125* per watch as payment in full, OR
- Charge my credit card in four monthly installments of \$31.25* each.

* Plus \$14.95 per watch for engraving, shipping & handling. PA res. add 6% (\$8.40) sales tax.

CREDIT CARD:

VISA MASTER CARD AMEX DISCOVER exp. ___/___

CC#: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # (____) _____ Email: _____

©2005-2013 ICM **MILWAT-NA-0313**

VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES™ ONLINE AT WWW.VETCOM.COM



John Davis

Budget Fix Still Needed

AS FRA TODAY GOES to press there is growing pessimism on Capitol Hill that sequestration (automatic budget cuts mandated by the 2011 Budget Control Act) will very likely take effect on March 1, 2013. These cuts will hit the Department of Defense (DoD) especially hard since the Act mandates that 50 percent of the cuts come from DoD — even though Defense only accounts for 17 percent of the total federal budget.

The cuts were designed to be so punitive that Congress would be forced to make a budget deal, but bitter political posturing has delayed action and prompted growing uncertainty, particularly among service members and their families. FRA is concerned that these cuts, combined with previously scheduled reductions, will negatively impact personnel, compromise readiness and create another hollow force.

In anticipation of additional budget cuts and extension

of the Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on March 27, DoD and the services have ordered hiring freezes, cancelled training and certain travel, delayed maintenance and halted other non-readiness-related programs to immediately reduce spending.

The last-minute budget deal in early January only postponed sequestration for two months and, combined with stalled FY 2013 appropriations legislation, the CR's pending expiration and the Administration's delayed FY 2014 budget request, the situation is becoming increasingly difficult for DoD and the services.

The House and Senate also approved legislation (H.R. 325) to extend the debt ceiling deadline until May 18, 2013, with provisions authorizing suspension of legislators' salaries if either chamber fails to pass a FY 2014 budget by April 14th. There is bipartisan support for the measure and the President is expected to sign the bill into law.

Military, Veteran Suicides Up in 2012

The Department of Defense (DoD) recently released alarming information on military suicides in 2012, indicating a 16-percent increase over 2011.

Total active duty suicides rose from 301 in 2011 to 349 last year. The report does not explain why service members are taking their lives, and DoD and Congress are struggling to respond effectively to this problem.

The FY 2013 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 112-239) includes provisions requiring DoD to implement a standardized and comprehensive suicide prevention program. This was in response to a RAND Corporation study indicating serious gaps and a lack of consistency in existing programs aimed at reducing the number of military suicides.

On average, 18 veterans are also committing suicide daily and a September 2012 Presidential Executive Order requires the VA and DoD to establish an inter-agency task force to coordinate suicide prevention efforts. FRA believes adequate resources and

support programs, to include expanded mental health counseling, are essential in preventing suicides among service members and veterans, and continues to address the issue in testimony and meetings with legislators and their staff.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) also released a comprehensive report on veterans who die by suicide. The report indicates that, while the percentage of veterans who commit suicide has decreased slightly since 1999, the estimated total number of veterans who have died by suicide has increased. In the past, data on veteran suicides was only available for those who had sought VA health care services. This new report also includes state data for vets who had not sought help from the VA, which will help VA strengthen its aggressive suicide prevention activities.



RETIREE ISSUES

Chained CPI Coalition

FRA recently attended a press conference hosted by Senator Bernie Sanders (Vt.), chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, announcing the formation of a coalition of seniors, veterans/military associations and labor organizations opposed to using the so-called "chained CPI" formula to calculate future benefits. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.) and Jeff Merkley (Ore.) also participated in the event.

Discussions to reduce the federal deficit have included proposals to replace the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) formula with the chained CPI calculation that takes into account the effect of substitutions consumers make in response to changes in prices. Over time using the chained formula could significantly impact annual Cost-of-Living-Adjustments (COLAs) for retirees, veterans and Social Security recipients. FRA is committed to ensuring equitable COLAs for military retiree retainer pay, veteran disability compensation, and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for surviving spouses and children.



Senator Bernie Sanders hosted a press conference on January 31, 2012.

Concurrent Receipt Bills Introduced

Representative Sanford Bishop (Ga.) introduced the "Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act" (H.R. 333), which provides full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation — without offset — for all disabled retirees, including those with less 20 years of service.

Additionally, Representative Gus Bilirakis (Fla.) introduced the "Retired Pay Restoration Act" (H.R. 303) that would authorize retirees with disability ratings of less than 50 percent to receive service-connected disability from VA and their full retirement pay. This measure would apply to retirees eligible for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) — a benefit currently available only for those whose disabilities are rated at 50 percent or more.

Members are urged to use the Action Center (www.fra.org) located on the FRA website to contact their U.S. Representative and ask for their support.

New Co-Pays for TRICARE Pharmacy Customers

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) announced new TRICARE co-payments for prescription drugs that took effect on February 1, 2013. The FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA – P.L. 112-239) authorizes higher co-pays on brand name and non-formulary medications that are not filled at military clinics or hospitals. There is no increase to co-pays for generic medications.

TRICARE Pharmacy co-pays vary based on the class of drug and where beneficiaries choose to fill their prescriptions. The co-pay for generic medications stays at \$5 when a prescription is filled at a network retail pharmacy. There is no co-pay when generic prescriptions are filled through TRICARE Home Delivery. The new co-pay for a 30-day supply of a brand name medication purchased at a retail network pharmacy is now \$17, up from \$12. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Home Delivery pay \$13 for brand name drugs, up from \$9; however, the Home Delivery price is for a 90-day supply.

The greatest change in co-pays applies to non-formulary medications. The \$25 co-pay for these drugs has increased to \$44 at retail pharmacies and \$43 through Home Delivery. The TRICARE Uniform Formulary, available online at www.tricare.mil/Prescriptions/Medications/Formulary.aspx, lists all medications covered by TRICARE.

For FY 2014 and beyond, the new law limits annual co-pay increases to the same percentage level as retiree cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). In years when a COLA increase totals less than a dollar, it will be delayed a year and combined with the next adjustment so increases will always be \$1 or more. Thanks in part to strong opposition from FRA, this



Photo by 18percentgrey/Shutterstock

plan was approved rather than much larger pharmacy co-pays proposed by the Pentagon.

Pharmacies at military hospitals and clinics continue to provide medications with no co-pays.

Visit www.tricare.com/pharmacycosts for more details.

VETERANS ISSUES

GI Bill Improvements Proposed

Rep. Jeff Miller (Fla.), chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the panel's Ranking Member, Rep. Mike Michaud (Me.), recently introduced the "GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act" (H.R. 357). The bill requires colleges and universities eligible to accept GI Bill education benefits to authorize in-state tuition rates for veterans, even if they are not residents of the state where the school is located.

"The men and women who served this nation did not just defend the citizens of their home states, but the citizens of all 50 states. As such, the educational benefits they receive from the taxpayers should reflect that," said Chairman Miller. "By offering in-state tuition, service members can attend an institution of higher learning that meets their specific needs without worrying about higher costs which non-residents often must pay."

"Because of the nature of military service, veterans often have a difficult time establishing residency for purposes of obtaining in-state tuition rates," added Ranking Member Michaud. "This bill will address this problem and ensure that veterans can access the affordable higher education options they have earned."

Shipmates can use the Action Center (www.fra.org) to ask their Representative to support this legislation.

Veterans Employment Nominee Approved by Senate

The Senate recently confirmed Keith Kelly to serve as the Department of Labor Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service, a post that had been vacant since July of 2011. During confirmation hearing testimony, Kelly indicated that he will implement the re-designed Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) and vowed to improve outreach to service members and veterans to ensure they have access to this and other programs to help them find civilian jobs.

Formerly the commissioner of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Kelly is the recipient of the Bronze Star for valor for his Army service during the Vietnam War.

continued on page 12

VA Cuts Red Tape for Veterans and Survivors

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) eliminated the requirement that beneficiaries provide an annual Eligibility Verification Report, as of January 1, 2013. Beneficiaries no longer need to obtain the annual reports from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA), which reduces the burden on veterans, their families and survivors. Under the new initiative, VA is working with the IRS and SSA to verify continued eligibility for pension benefits. The new initiative also allows VA to redirect more than 100 employees to work on eliminating the claims backlog.

For more information go to: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2414>

VA Launches "Make the Connection"

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently launched "Make the Connection" program to inform veterans, their families, friends, and members of their communities about the resources designed to help vets live well. At MakeTheConnection.net, veterans and their loved ones will find information, insight, and support for dealing with and working through a variety of common life experiences, day-to-day symptoms, as well as mental health conditions. MakeTheConnection.net is a free and confidential resource.

Make the Connection links:

Main Page: <http://maketheconnection.net>

Resources and Support: <http://maketheconnection.net/resources>

Spread the Word: <http://maketheconnection.net/resources/spread-the-word>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransMTC>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/veteransmtc>

Former Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Mansfield Passes

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki released the following statement on the passing of Former Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield:

"Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield dedicated his life to advocating on behalf of veterans. He leaves behind a towering legacy of service to veterans, VA, and the nation.

Combat commander, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, and role model to disabled veterans young and old, especially those who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Secretary Mansfield triumphed over debilitating combat wounds to earn the respect and admiration of veterans of every generation through his years of devotion to Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Wounded Warrior Project, and to VA.

As VA's Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer from January 22, 2004 to January 20, 2009, and as Acting Secretary from October 1, 2007 to December 20, 2007, Secretary Mansfield was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Nation's second-largest federal agency. He was instrumental in establishing VA's nursing academy and personally oversaw the largest IT reorganization within the federal government and VA's multi-billion-dollar construction program, including the initial planning for VA's state-of-the-art medical center in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

On behalf of America's 22 million veterans, I salute the memory of a brave man, a great patriot, a devoted public servant, and a tireless advocate for all veterans. I extend my deepest personal condolences to the entire Mansfield family."

"I love Stauer watches. Where else can you get classic, vintage styling for their price?"

- Stauer client D.O. from Louisville, KY

Independently Appraised at \$225... yours for ONLY \$59!



The Smartest Watch on Wall Street

Inspired by classic banker's timepieces, the \$59 Stauer Buttonwood is right on the money!

Looking for some investment advice? Check the wrists of the sharpest folks in finance. They know that money spent on an expensive watch doesn't compound or earn interest. If you really want to make a smart financial statement, skip the overpriced luxury logo and invest in the **Stauer® Buttonwood Watch**. Make it yours today for **only \$59** and find out why it's been called "The Smartest Watch on Wall Street."

Inspired by history. In 1792, investors gathered beneath a buttonwood tree to organize what would become the New York Stock Exchange. But our watch owes more than just its name to history. Its design recalls a vintage banker's timepiece popular at the turn of the 20th century. Today, those important antiques routinely sell for thousands at auction (we found one that sold for \$13,350). But with this exclusive offer, the **Buttonwood** is making financial headlines all over again... for less than \$60!

The **Buttonwood** projects a sophisticated look with a golden face and finished in rose gold, hobnail-patterned bezel and case. Its onion crown and padded genuine black leather band (with white stitching) add to the classic design.



Elegant details, a precision quartz movement and exceptional craftsmanship.

More time for less money. We took the **Buttonwood Watch** to an independent appraiser who works with auction houses, estate sales and insurance companies. He valued it at \$225! We thanked him for his professional opinion and then ignored it. Because even if an experienced appraiser tells us that this watch is valued at over \$200, we still want you to wear it for **ONLY \$59!**

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Try the **Buttonwood Watch** for yourself. If you're not completely impressed, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of your purchase price. But it's much more likely that once you add the **Buttonwood** to your portfolio, you'll never want to trade.

Stauer Exclusive—Not In Stores

Stauer® Buttonwood Watch—Appraised at ~~\$225*~~
Yours today for ONLY \$59 +S&P

Call now to take advantage of this extremely limited offer.

1-888-870-9477

Promotional Code BWV150-02
Please mention this code when you call.



Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. BWV150-02
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

** For more information concerning the appraisal, visit <http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp>.*

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices

Rose gold-layered bezel and case - Precision quartz movement - Black leather band fits wrists 6 1/2"-8 1/2" - Water-resistant to 3 ATM

FRA Recognized Outstanding Sailors from Naval Sea System Command (NAVSEA)

FRA hosted a briefing and reception at FRA National Headquarters for outstanding Sailors from NAVSEA. FRA salutes all the candidates, including NAVSEA's 2012 Sailor of the Year GSM1(SW/AW) Jorge A. Garcia (left) and 2012 Reserve Sailor of the Year ET1(SW) Dwight J. Wilt (an FRA member-at-large). Bravo Zulu to these outstanding Sailors!



NAVSEA's 2012 Sailor of the Year GSM1(SW/AW) Jorge A. Garcia (left) and 2012 Reserve Sailor of the Year ET1(SW) Dwight J. Wilt (an FRA member-at-large).

State of the Union Address

In the President's February State of the Union address, he challenged Congress to assist the American middle class squeezed by rising costs and stagnant wages. He also stated that a year from now there will be 34,000 fewer troops in Afghanistan, which is almost half of the troops currently deployed. The President vowed to "keep faith with our veterans — investing in world-class care, including mental health care for our wounded warriors; supporting our military families; and giving our veterans the benefits, education, and job opportunities they have earned."

One of the many veterans who need our nation's support is Marine Corps veteran Carlos Evans, one of the 24 citizens who joined First Lady Michelle Obama in her viewing box during the speech. Sergeant Evans was on his fourth overseas deployment when he sustained injuries in Afghanistan that resulted in the loss of both his legs and his left hand. Evans first met the First Lady while he was recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center and later visited the White House for a Wounded Warrior Tour. In 2012, he received a home customized to meet his physical needs from Operation Coming Home and now resides in North Carolina with his wife and two young daughters.



President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., Feb. 12, 2013. Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy.

VETERANS ISSUES

VETERANS ISSUES continued from page 10

VA Claims Initiative Reduces Processing Time, Adds Convenience

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a new initiative that could eliminate the requirement for an in-person medical examination for some veterans and shorten the time it takes to process disability compensation claims. The initiative, called Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE), was developed by both the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in a joint effort to provide a veteran-centric approach for disability examinations. Use of the ACE process opens the possibility of doing assessments without an in-person examination when there is sufficient information in the record.



Photo by Alexander Rath/Shutterstock

Under ACE practices, a VA medical provider completes a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) by reviewing existing medical evidence. This evidence can be supplemented with information obtained during a telephone interview with the veteran and, if VA records already contain sufficient medical documentation for disability rating purposes, the requirement for veterans to travel to a medical facility for an examination may be eliminated.

"ACE is a process improvement that will help us meet our goal to eliminate the claims backlog and provide more timely benefits to our veterans, their families and survivors," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "The initiative also saves veterans the inconvenience and costs associated with attending a medical examination."

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

THE U.S. NAVY PRIDE

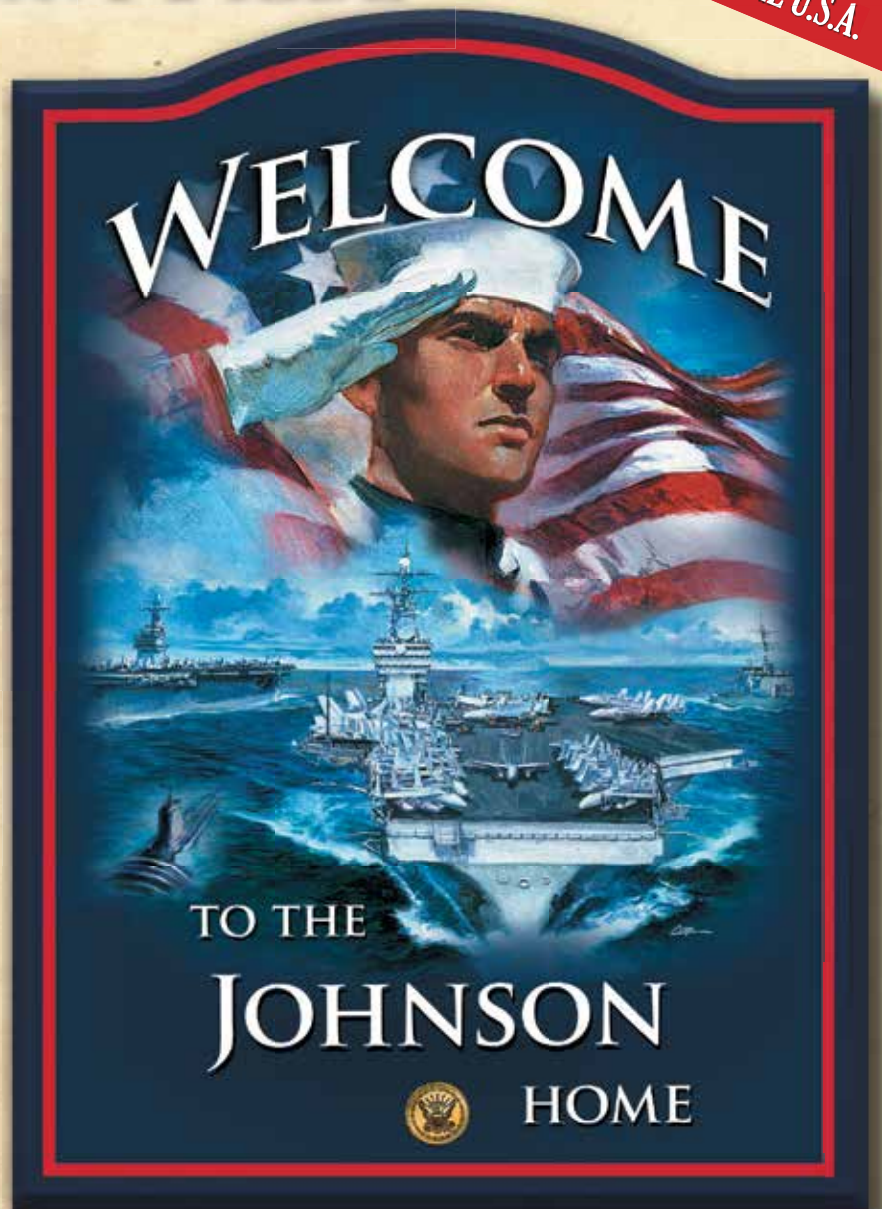
Personalized WELCOME SIGN

- ★ Stirring new U.S. naval imagery from award-winning artist Dennis Lyall
- ★ Hand-crafted wooden plaque with a handsome beveled edge
- ★ A Bradford Exchange Exclusive Design
- ★ Over 1 Foot High

PERSONALIZED
WITH A
FAMILY NAME!

Shown much smaller than actual size of
14 inches tall by 10 inches wide.
Hanging device included for easy, secure
display. Recommended for indoor use only.
©2013 Dennis Lyall

©2013 BGE 01-17801-001-BI



U.S. Navy pride is right at home

Established in 1775, the United States Navy is the world's undisputed naval superpower. Now you can honor this historic military tradition and all who have served with the *U.S. Navy Pride* Personalized Welcome Sign from The Bradford Exchange. Powerful new artwork from renowned artist Dennis Lyall appears in full color on this hand-crafted wooden plaque, sized at 14 inches high. The impressive naval montage imagery is sure to evoke feelings of U.S. Navy pride and patriotism. But the best part of all this: your family name is printed at the bottom. Just hang the sign in a place where everyone can see it and enjoy it.

Exceptional value; satisfaction guaranteed

A limited number of *U.S. Navy Pride* Personalized Welcome Signs will be hand-crafted, and strong demand is expected for this edition, showcasing Dennis Lyall's powerful artwork. Interested clients are advised to act now to avoid disappointment. Order yours today, payable in four installments of only \$24.99 each, for a total of \$99.95*. Send no money now. Just complete the Reservation Application (including the name to be personalized) and return it today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/navywelcome

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
-HOME DECOR-

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *U.S. Navy Pride* Personalized Welcome Sign for me as described in this announcement. **Print the family name to be personalized below (limit 18 characters):**

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

01-17801-001-E27941

*Plus \$12.99 shipping and service. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

ACTIVE DUTY ISSUES

FRA Honors Outstanding Marine Corps Recruiters

For the fifteenth consecutive year, FRA recognized outstanding Marines during two separate ceremonies at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, Va. Awards were presented to Marine Corps Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge and Prior Service Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge, as well as the other Marine Corps' top recruiters, drill instructors, combat instructors, security, and career planners of the year at the Corps' annual Combined Awards Ceremony.

Deputy Commandant, Lieutenant General Robert E. Milstead Jr., Commanding General Marine Corps Recruiting Command, spoke at both events. FRA's Director of Legislative Programs (DLP) John Davis presented special certificates and FRA challenge coins to all awardees on behalf of FRA's National President Mark Kilgore, and Assistant DLP Ed Dockery also attended the Combined Awards Ceremony, and an FRA-sponsored reception thereafter.



FRA's DLP John Davis poses with winners and runner-up for Staff NCO Recruiters of the Year Awards. Shown (L to R) are Gunnery Sergeant Douglas L. McGlothlin, Gunnery Sergeant Sabastian Luna Jr., Gunnery Sergeant Randy L. Erpelding, and Gunnery Sergeant Brian J. Grado. (USMC photo)



January 30, 2013 USMC Combined Awards Ceremony, Quantico, VA. ADLP Ed Dockery shown with SgtMaj's Adams and Long at the ceremony.

**Stolen Valor Legislation Introduced**

Rep. Joe Heck (Nev.) recently introduced the "Stolen Valor Act" (H.R. 258) that would make it a crime to knowingly benefit from making fraudulent claims about military decorations. In June of 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court (*United States v. Alvarez*) overturned a similar law on the grounds that it infringed on constitutionally-protected free speech. FRA supported the earlier legislation and signed on to a Friend of the Court (Amicus) brief when the case was considered by the high court. The recently-introduced bill aims to protect the integrity of military awards and should withstand constitutional scrutiny because it more narrowly focuses on those who seek to *benefit* from misrepresentation of military service — not the lie itself.

The FRA Legislative team is Joe Barnes, National Executive Director; John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs; Bob Washington, Health Care Advisor and Outreach Manager; Chris Slawinski, National Veterans Service Officer and Ed Dockery, Assistant Director of Legislative Programs.



SPECIAL COLLECTOR OPPORTUNITY



Your Expert Guide to the World's Finest Coins

Nicholas J. Bruyer, Chairman & Founder, First Federal Coin
ANA Life Member Since 1974

\$5,630 for an Ounce of Silver Bullion? Impossible!

10 years ago I'd have called you crazy to make such a prediction. Yet today it's a fact. Now our deal with a \$4 billion precious metals wholesaler nets you a great deal for America's hottest ounce of silver!

It wasn't more than 13 years ago that we met with former U.S. Mint Director Donna Pope. She spoke with pride about what she considered to be her greatest achievement as Director under President Reagan: Creation of the American Eagle silver and gold bullion coin programs, the first of their kind in our nation's history.

The purpose of these coins was to give people the opportunity to own physical silver and gold in a form certified for weight and purity by the U.S. Mint. While the bullion coin program was a signal success, nobody took into account the profound effect it would have on the collector market.

Silver Eagles = Today's Morgan Dollars

In the 1800s and early 1900s, the U.S. Morgan Silver Dollar was struck year upon year at various mints and circulated at face value. Their core value was in their precious metal content. However, in top grades, Morgan Silver Dollars can sell today for tens and even hundreds of thousands of dollars each!

For the same reason, many collectors today see the Silver Eagle series as a literal "ground floor" opportunity to acquire the top-grade coins as they are released. They started submitting Silver Eagles to the leading independent coin grading services, such as Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), praying that the coins would come back with the highest possible grade: MS70 (all Uncirculated coins are graded on a point system from a low of 60 to a high of 70, with 70 representing flawless perfection). Of all the Silver Eagles produced by the U.S. Mint in 2012, less than one out of every 482 earned the NGC MS70 grade!

MS70 = \$\$\$\$\$!

In the rarified atmosphere of MS70, Silver Eagles have soared to market prices that I can only characterize as surreal. Consider this: MS70 Silver Eagles have been selling for truly stratospheric prices. Here are just a few eye-popping examples:

- 1996 MS70 Silver Eagle **\$4,560** (NGC population:128)
- 1988 MS70 Silver Eagle **\$2,630** (NGC population:193)
- 1994 MS70 Silver Eagle **\$1,660** (NGC population:175)
- 2000 MS70 Silver Eagle **\$5,630** (NGC population:189)

Of course, the population of these MS70 coins is smaller because they are examples of the finest coins.

It Just Keeps Getting Better

I was thrilled to lock up a guaranteed supply of Perfect Gem MS70 2013 Silver Eagles from a primary distributor. Moreover, every coin

is certified and encapsulated by NGC, one of the top two firms for grading coins. But better yet, because these coins were among the very first released, they all have the value-enhancing "First Releases" designation.

What Does "First Releases" Mean?

NGC designates only those coins it certifies as having been released during the first 30 days of issue as First Releases. Collectors place a premium on these coins because they are struck from freshly made dies, which is thought to impart superior quality. Only a minuscule number of the mintage gets the First Releases pedigree—so it can turbo charge the value of an already valuable MS70 coin.



Actual size is 40.6 mm

BUY RISK FREE—AND SAVE \$30 OR MORE

No one can predict the future value of any coin, of course. Markets and prices go up and down. But because of our industry-leading status, you can take advantage of our "bolt of lightning" deal on these Perfect Gem MS70 2013 Silver Eagles. **These same coins are selling elsewhere for \$119.95 each**, but you can order yours here at an incredible price of only \$89.95 each. Or buy more and save even more: buy FIVE for \$84.95 each or buy TEN for only \$79.95 each.

To avoid disappointment I urge you to call immediately.

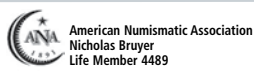
Hurry! This is a first-come-first-served offer. Call 1-800-973-3078 to find out how to qualify for free shipping. Mention offer code: FES135-01

**Call First Federal Toll-FREE today
1-800-973-3078**

to Reserve Your 2013 Silver Eagle MS70 First Release!

Offer Code FES135-01
Please mention this code when you call.

Prices and availability subject to change without notice. Past performance is not a predictor of future performance. NOTE: First Federal® is a private distributor of worldwide government coin and currency issues and privately issued licensed collectibles and is not affiliated with the United States government. Facts and figures deemed accurate as of January 2013. ©2013 First Federal Coin.



1-800-973-3078

14101 Southcross Drive W., Burnsville, Minnesota 55337



History and Heritage

UNDERSTANDING OUR ROOTS IS a great source of pride for most of us. Whether you celebrate your family's ethnic heritage, wear a t-shirt or ball cap proclaiming your military service or boast about your affiliation with FRA, your personal background can be a touchstone to your past. It can also be the foundation for a common bond with prospective shipmates.

FRA's proud heritage began more than 88 years ago, when two active duty Navy Chiefs were invited to be the first enlisted service members to address a congressional committee. Bringing the enlisted perspective to Capitol Hill is where it all began for FRA and was the start of the Association's work to provide a voice for enlisted members of the Sea Services. And although our Association has evolved significantly since then, our mission remains the same – to protect the pay, benefits and quality-of-life programs for those who serve – and our history is inextricably linked to the benefits earned and enjoyed by all current and former service members today.

“What Congress gives, Congress can take away” has been a rallying cry throughout FRA's long history, is the primary reason FRA was established and, more importantly, is why our organization remains relevant today. In addition to FRA founders being the first enlisted personnel to testify before Congress, FRA played a leading role in the establishment of healthcare benefits for military members and families, led the charge for uniform allowances, was instrumental in the development of today's Survivor Benefit Plan and continues its work to protect and enhance our members' earned benefits. Letting prospective members know about FRA's rich legacy as a professional military association that

speaks on their behalf is a key component of recruiting efforts.

FRA membership is also a way for shipmates to stay connected with their military roots. Sharing the common bonds of military service with fellow

FRA played a leading role in the establishment of healthcare benefits for military members and families, led the charge for uniform allowances, was instrumental in the development of today's Survivor Benefit Plan and continues its work to protect and enhance our members' earned benefits.

service members, veterans and retirees allows FRA shipmates to strengthen their ties to their own personal heritage. One of FRA's top recruiters, Shipmate Frank Gates (Branch 293 in Elizabeth City, N.C.), looks for signs that indicate someone has an affiliation with one of the Sea Services. If he sees a hat, jacket or tattoo with the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard insignia, he immediately starts asking questions about that person's military history. This provides an opening to



Penny Collins

steer the discussion toward what FRA is doing for them and other enlisted service members. He often hands them a current issue of *FRA Today* and closes the deal by inviting them to join FRA.

Being a member of FRA also provides numerous opportunities to serve — something current and former military personnel certainly understand. By participating in FRA-sponsored community service projects or assuming leadership positions within the Association, FRA shipmates are able to continue their legacy of service.

Navy retirees and veterans have a very special opportunity to share their personal experiences (their history, as it were) with those poised to lead the Navy in the future. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens recently issued guidance for developing tomorrow's enlisted leaders that includes a reference to the historical perspective of Navy retirees. (See page 24 of this month's feature article.)

History shapes the future. FRA's heritage, like that of the military services and the nation itself, continues to evolve and form the foundation for tomorrow. Help make a mark in FRA's history and, at the same time, be part of its future by recruiting your relief.

The History of the FRA is currently being updated to include recent legislative victories and Association developments. It is available online at www.fra.org (under the About FRA tab).

Penny Collins is FRA's Director of Membership Development and a member of FRA Branch 24 in Annapolis, Md. She can be reached at penny@fra.org.

The First The Last The ONLY!



Actual size
is 30.6 mm



50 Years later the 1964 Silver Proof Set still shines bright

On November 25, 1963, just three days after the tragedy in Dallas, the U.S. Mint began work on the 90% Silver Kennedy Half Dollar. It would prove to be one of the most popular half dollar designs in our nation's history. Not surprisingly, when Americans discovered that the brand new Kennedy Half Dollar was the centerpiece of the 1964 U.S. Silver Proof Set, demand immediately soared through the roof!

By January 11th, 1964, the Mint was forced to halt orders for the 1964 Silver Proof Set, and eventually had to reduce the original maximum order of 100 Proof Sets down to just 2 sets per buyer in the face of such staggering demand. Finally, on March 12, even the limit of 2 sets was halted because the Mint received orders for 200,000 Proof Sets in just two days!

Fifty years later, the 1964 Silver Proof Set is still in great demand.

Why? Because this set is chock full of "Firsts," "Lasts" and "Onlys":

1964 Proof Set Firsts, Lasts & Onlys

- ✓ The **FIRST** year Kennedy Half Dollar Proof
- ✓ The **FIRST** Proof set to feature a former president on every coin
- ✓ The **LAST** Proof Set struck at the Philadelphia Mint
- ✓ The **LAST** year the Roosevelt Dime, Washington Quarter and Kennedy Half Dollar were struck in 90% silver for regular production
- ✓ The **ONLY** 90% Silver Kennedy Half Dollar Proof ever minted for regular production
- ✓ The **ONLY** Kennedy Half Dollar Proof struck at the Philadelphia Mint

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of JFK's 1963 assassination this year, the 1964 U.S. Silver Proof Set is back into the spotlight again. Each set contains the 1964 Lincoln Cent and Jefferson

Nickel, along with three 90% Silver coins: the Silver Roosevelt Dime, Silver Washington Quarter, and the 1964 Silver Kennedy Half Dollar—the only 90% Kennedy Half Dollar ever struck for regular production.

Saved from destruction—but how many sets survived?

Collectors know that the key is to find those sets still preserved in the original U.S. Mint "flat pack" just as issued. And over the past 50 years, that has become more and more difficult! Since this set was issued, silver prices have risen from \$1.29 per ounce to over \$48 per ounce at the silver market's high mark. During that climb, it is impossible to determine how many of these 1964 Proof Sets have been melted for their precious silver content. The packaging on thousands of other sets has been cut apart to remove the silver coins—so there is no way to know for certain how many 1964 U.S. Proof Sets have survived to this day.

Order now—Satisfaction Guaranteed

We expect our small quantity of 1964 U.S. Silver Proof Sets to disappear quickly, so we urge you to call now to secure yours. You must be satisfied with your set or simply return it within 30 days of receipt for prompt refund (*less s/h*). **Limit: 5 per household.**

1964 U.S. Silver Proof Set \$59.00 *plus s/h*

TOLL-FREE 24 HOURS A DAY

1-888-870-9343

Offer Code KPS142-01
Please mention this code when you call.



New York Mint

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. KPS142-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.NewYorkMint.com



De

Strong
Lead

When Master Chief Mike Stevens took the watch as Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) on September 28, 2012, he had a wealth of leadership experience in his seabag. He'd spent more than a third of his 29+ years in the Navy as a Master Chief, leading Sailors in a variety of capacities, including several assignments as a Command Master Chief and as the Fleet Master Chief for U.S. Fleet Forces Command. So it's not surprising that he hasn't been blindsided by much in his first six months as the Navy's senior-most enlisted person.

Developing Enlisted Leaders

by Lauren Armstrong

The Invention of the Year is Great News for your Ears

*Perfect Choice HD™ is easy to use,
hard to see and doesn't cost a fortune...
it's like reading glasses for your ears™!*

New Personal Sound Amplification Product is an affordable way to "turn up the volume!"

Even the best inventions can get better. Cordless phones have gotten smaller and feature better sound... televisions have gotten sharper and more affordable. Now, the Personal Sound Amplification Product (PSAP) that has enabled countless people to "turn up the volume" is better than ever.

Perfect Choice HD is NOT a hearing aid. Hearing aids can only be sold by an audiologist or a licensed hearing instrument specialist following hearing tests and fitting appointments. Once they have you tested and fitted, you could pay as much as \$5000 for the product.

Reading glasses for your ears. While some people need hearing aids, many just need the extra boost in volume that a PSAP gives them. Now, thanks to the efforts of the

doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, there is Perfect Choice HD. It's a PSAP designed to accurately amplify sounds and deliver them to your ear. Because we've developed an efficient production process, we can make a great product at an affordable price. The unit has been designed to have an easily accessible battery, but it is small and lightweight enough to hide behind your ear... only you'll know you have it on.

Now we've made Perfect Choice HD better than ever!		
	Original Design	New Perfect Choice HD
Sound Quality	Good	Better – It Reduces Feedback
Volume	up to 30dB	35dB – 15% Louder
Hearing Tubes	One	3 to choose from for different situations
Ear Buds	One	2 to choose from for better fit and sound
One-on-One set up instructions	No	Yes – if needed

It's comfortable and won't make you feel like you have something stuck in your ear. It provides high quality audio so sounds and conversations will be easier to hear and understand.

We want you to be happy with Perfect Choice HD, so we are offering to let you try it for yourself with our exclusive home trial. If you are not totally satisfied with this product, simply return it within 60 days for a refund of the full



*Affordable, Simple to use,
Virtually impossible to see*

product purchase price. Don't wait... and miss out on another conversation... call now!

Are you or a loved one frustrated in these situations?

- Restaurants • Dinner parties
- Outdoor conversations
- Lectures • Sermons
- Meetings

...and other times where you need to turn up the volume



Call now for our lowest price and get FREE Bonus Hearing Tubes.

Please mention promotional code 46444.

1-888-588-2718

1998 Ruffin Mill Road • Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Perfect Choice HD is not a hearing aid. If you believe you need a hearing aid, please consult a physician.

"I've enjoyed the challenges that I've been presented and I'm excited about the future," Stevens told FRA in a recent interview. "I look forward to leading our Sailors and families as we carry out the mission of our Navy by executing CNO's (Chief of Naval Operations) *Sailing Directions*."

It's also no surprise that the 13th MCPON has a plan to ensure today's Sailors, as well as those who lead in the future, are prepared to uphold the tenets of CNO Adm. Jonathan Greenert's *Sailing Directions* — "Warfighting first, operating forward, being ready." He's already implementing a variety of initiatives aimed at developing strong leadership qualities in deckplate Sailors and members of the Chief Petty Officers' (CPO) Mess.

"Our success will be determined on our ability to lead our people," Stevens said. "Without competent leaders we cannot succeed; with competent leaders we cannot fail."

Striving for Excellence

Stevens' top priorities for his tenure as MCPON are laid out in his *Zeroing in on Excellence* initiative, which he describes as "a universal theme" that can be applied by all Sailors — both enlisted and commissioned — in their respective positions. Developed from Navy-wide input from Chiefs and outlined in a series of four letters to the Navy's Chiefs' Mess, *Zeroing in on Excellence* consists of three primary components: Developing leaders, good order and discipline, and controlling what we own.

"It is easy to become distracted by things that are beyond our control," says Stevens, citing examples such as natural disasters and world events. But he also reminds Chiefs

of the things they do own and control, such as technical training, maintenance/administrative production and the execution of orders. "We also have the ability to control much of our own lives by becoming and remaining physically, mentally, morally and spiritually sound."

Stevens calls on leaders to prioritize what's most important and relevant to Navy success. "Making the Navy run is a job for professionals," says Stevens in one of his letters to the Mess, "... and professionals know what the priorities are and where to apply energy. They are not easily distracted by white noise beyond their control."

Good Order and Discipline

Among the many things Chiefs control is good order and discipline, and Stevens is clear on its importance in his *Excellence* guidance.

"Very few things have a greater impact on warfighting readiness and our ability to accomplish mission than good order and discipline. To me, it is about establishing, sustaining and enforcing professional standards that set the conditions for individual and unit success. Anything that interferes with or detracts from those conditions is contrary to good order and discipline."

The 13th MCPON asks Chief Petty Officers to take ownership of good order and discipline by providing leadership and taking personal accountability. He believes it's a concept that must be taught, first and foremost, through personal example and by displaying the highest level of integrity in all personal actions. He speaks of the "acute impact" CPOs have in their daily and routine interactions with Sailors of all ranks and rates, and he emphasizes "how singularly irreplaceable personal example is in building bold, accountable and confident leadership."

Stevens attributes his professional success to a number of mentors who positively influenced him to do his best in all endeavors. "During the course of my career, there have been several people whom I consider leaders that impacted my life. I count them as leaders because it was these people who, in one way or another, influenced me to strive for excellence and work to become a better person and leader myself. I also often reflect on my mentors who I have read

Nov. 18, 2012 MCPON Mike D. Stevens speaks to Sailors assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Bahrain, during a visit to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. U.S. 5th Fleet's mission is to conduct maritime security operations, defeat violent extremism and strengthen partner nations' maritime capabilities in order to promote security and stability in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.





Fleet Reserve Association

Proudly Endorses

USAA for Credit Card Services



Retirement planning. You don't have to go it alone.

At USAA, we know military life is different, even when you retire from a post-military career. So for current and former military service members and their families, we offer financial advice geared to the realities of your life. Our advisors can help you create the retirement plan you want. Because when it comes to retirement, our commitment to the military community and their families is without equal.

**Get started today.
Talk to a trusted advisor.**

usaa.com/fra | 877-372-8722



We know what it means to serve.®

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Investing in securities products involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

Investments provided by USAA Investment Management Company and USAA Financial Advisors Inc., both registered broker dealers. Financial planning services and financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Company in California, Lic. #0E36312), a registered investment advisor and insurance agency and its wholly owned subsidiary, USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker dealer. FRA receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2013 USAA. 142678-0213

about; George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. I look at the success and failures of these great leaders and try to learn from them.

“Being a leader requires extraordinary discipline and the desire to do that which is right on a consistent basis. Leaders, like most people, will have days when they may not feel like doing something a particular way or face temptation. But a leader must display the discipline to avoid temptation and perform actions required to lead others by example. Each leader will need to search and find the core disciplines necessary that will serve as their anchor when the obstacle they face seems insurmountable.”

Developing Leaders for Tomorrow

Developing strong Navy leaders through training and mentoring is an integral part of Stevens’ push for excellence. “If our Navy is going to continue climbing, then we, as Chief Petty Officers, must always seek to increase our and our Sailors’ ability to lead.”

The Navy’s solid leadership training programs are the cornerstone of this *Zeroing in on Excellence* component. Resources such as the Petty Officer Selectee Leadership training manual for E-4s through E-6s, Fleet CPO Training, and Command Master Chief and Chief of the Boat courses are all designed to provide a strong foundation for future leaders. Additionally, the Navy’s Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, R.I., trains CPOs to operate as Departmental Leading Chiefs and attendance is a prerequisite for becoming a Command Master Chief. More recently, the training program for prospective Chief Petty Officers has been revised to include year-round training, called *CPO 365*.

Introduced by then-MCPON Rick West in 2010, the *CPO 365* program has become the centerpiece in the process of training Navy enlisted leaders. Stevens believes it takes longer than the six weeks between CPO selection and their pinning ceremony to prepare First Class Petty Officers (FCPO) for their leadership role as Chiefs and it’s his top priority to develop leadership skills in every FCPO.

“Developing effective leaders doesn’t happen in a few short weeks; it’s a continuous and never-ending process,” says Stevens in his *CPO 365 Guidance for 2012–2013*. “[It’s] a process that starts on the day a Sailor is advanced to FCPO and begins *CPO 365*. It can, in no way, be replicated in a few short weeks.”

Stevens views the program as a continuous, dynamic and “steady-state” process of professional development that engages Chiefs with FCPOs and junior officers to form and strengthen relationships, based on a foundation of mutual respect. This “vertical and horizontal collaboration” will benefit all Navy stakeholders — FCPO, Chiefs, the Wardroom and the Total Force — and will “hone the basic tenets of teamwork, time management and tenacity throughout the year.”

The *CPO 365* program is divided into two phases, the first of which begins in September of each year. Phase 1 involves all First Class Petty Officers, regardless of whether they are eligible to compete for advancement or not, and includes fitness and nutritional elements to ensure physical readiness, participation in community service projects or events, periodic training and teambuilding activities with Chiefs, officers and fellow FCPOs.

Although all FCPOs will participate in *CPO 365*, not all will be eligible to meet the Chief selection board. A Sailor must be a FCPO for two years before he/she is eligible to take the Chiefs’ exam. If not selected for Chief, they will continue to participate in the *CPO 365* program and must retake the exam the following year. Those who are ineligible or are not selected for Chief will participate in Career Development Boards to help them chart a path to advancement.

Phase 1 ends and Phase 2 begins when the Chief selection results are announced. All FCPOs will continue to participate in the program during Phase 2, but CPO Selectees will have additional and separate responsibilities, such as completing the CPO Selectee Leadership Course and fundraising activities. Phase 2 is a continuation of the same principles



Nov. 18, 2012 MCPON Stevens discusses Embarked Security Team training techniques with Master-at-Arms Seaman Jerald Johnson.

and leadership training that began in Phase 1 — not a drastic departure from them — and will include heritage training, physical fitness assessments, and teambuilding and physical training events with CPOs, FCPOs and members of the Wardroom. Each Selectee will have an assigned sponsor who will participate in all events with them and there will also be activities for the Selectees' spouses and families.

Learning from those who've gone before is an important part of Stevens' vision for developing tomorrow's Navy leaders. Many time-honored traditions, such as CPO Charge Books, meet-and-greet gatherings and "a capstone event focused on the critical relevance of teamwork and resilience" will continue to be a part of the process.

Navy heritage is a key component of the *CPO 365* initiative and CPO Selectees will be required to learn a facet of Navy history and share it with the Mess. They can gain this information from the Navy's History and Heritage Command (www.history.navy.mil) or other documented resources, or through personal conversations with retired CPOs. Navy

retirees are referenced as "precious resources" that must be cultivated and involved in the *CPO 365* and Mess activities throughout the year.

The Final Test and Pinning Ceremony

Phase 2 of *CPO 365* will culminate with "the Final Test," an event meant to "galvanize the basic attributes of trust, teamwork, dedication and endurance through practical application of knowledge, skills and abilities acquired throughout the year." The Final Test will check competencies (which will vary by specific warfare community and geographic region) and will assess Selectees' confidence and composure during "functional checks on leadership, critical thinking, knowledge (of Navy programs and policies), fitness, history and heritage, and acceptance."

According to MCPON Stevens, the Final Test should be patterned after the Battle Stations final exam required of new

CPO 365

PHASE 1

Phase 1 involves all First Class Petty Officers, regardless of whether they are eligible to compete for advancement or not, and includes fitness and nutritional elements to ensure physical readiness, participation in community service projects or events, periodic training and teambuilding activities with Chiefs, officers and fellow FCPOs.



PHASE 2

All FCPOs will continue to participate in the program during Phase 2, but CPO Selectees will have additional and separate responsibilities. Phase 2 includes heritage training, teambuilding and physical training events with CPOs, FCPOs and members of the Wardroom and culminates with the Final Test patterned after the Battle Stations final exam.



It's hardly the worst souvenir from your service in the Navy



Are you or a loved one a Navy, Merchant Marine or Coast Guard veteran who suffers or has died from asbestos-related

Mesothelioma or **Lung Cancer**?

Know your rights, and know what you're entitled to from the asbestos companies.

Few firms have the track record of Weitz & Luxenberg in securing **over \$3 Billion in verdicts and settlements** for asbestos victims and their families.

For a free consultation with the law firm to which *other* lawyers refer their asbestos cases, call the Weitz & Luxenberg client relations department at **1-888-411-LAWS (5297)** today.

Many other trades and work environments gave many workers significant occupational exposure to asbestos products, such as: **Shipyards, Factories, Powerhouses, Construction Sites** (all jobs), **Boiler Rooms**, and **Building Maintenance**. If you feel that you are experiencing breathing problems as a result of asbestos poisoning, please see a medical professional immediately.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG P.C.

ASBESTOS • DRUGS/MEDICAL DEVICES • ENVIRONMENTAL • NEGLIGENCE

LAW OFFICES

700 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, NY 10003
BRANCH OFFICES IN NEW JERSEY, CALIFORNIA & COLORADO
1.888.411.LAWS • www.weitzlux.com

Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

We may associate with local firms in states wherein we do not maintain an office.



We are also investigating:

- Fosamax-related Femur Fractures
- DePuy ASR® Hip Replacement Injuries
- Knee Replacement Component Injuries
- Seroquel youth injuries

Sailors at the end of boot camp, but each CPO Mess will be responsible for designing its own unique finale to *CPO 365*. And although each Mess will develop its own event, there are some very specific requirements laid out in the 2012-2013 *CPO 365 Guidance*. For example, the event may not last longer than 18 hours, cannot begin before 6:00 AM and must end no later than midnight on the evening before the pinning ceremony.

According to Stevens' *CPO 365 Guidance*, the Final Test should be "a professional military function" that will involve "no alcohol, no physical abuse of any kind, no cross-dressing or any sexually explicit behavior at any time." And it will no longer be referred to as "induction."

The changes have been met with mixed reviews, but MCPON Stevens is quick to point out that *CPO 365* isn't meant to take anything away from past processes that situated the Chiefs' Mess as a prominent element of Navy leadership. Change is critical to the continuous improvement needed for the Navy to keep pace with today's missions and he sees *CPO 365* as a "logical, necessary and steady evolution [that's been] at work for 119 years, one that recognizes both the environment in which we operate and the critical need to develop leaders for success in the modern era. [It involves] blending tradition with a passionate commitment to provide the leadership our Sailors demand and should expect from the CPO Mess. I have the utmost confidence in our ability as a Mess to continue to build upon the legacy of success forged by all that have worn anchors."

The pinning ceremony will take place on September 13th this year and will also be unique to each CPO Mess and its location, command heritage, traditions and circumstances. "At the end of Phase 2, when Selectees have earned their anchors, I expect they will look back at *CPO 365* as one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their career," summarizes Stevens. "[The pinning ceremony] should be one of the most memorable events in any Chief's career."

Leaders on All Fronts

Chief Petty Officers are tasked with leading Sailors to accomplish the Navy's missions, but they also play a vital role in caring for the Sailors in their charge. Stevens contends that the tenets of *Zeroing in on Excellence* will not only have a positive effect on readiness; they will also assist Navy

enlisted leaders as they "get after some of the issues with an adverse impact on our Navy, including sexual assault, suicide, domestic violence and alcohol/drug abuse."

The Navy, like the other services, is working hard to curtail climbing suicide rates among active duty and Reserve personnel. Each year, the Navy loses Sailors to suicide and many times it could have been prevented. "Suicide prevention is an all hands evolution," MCPON Stevens told FRA. The Navy has adopted the acronym Ask, Care, Treat (ACT) to help Sailors deal with stress, depression and thoughts of suicide. ACT means, Ask-Don't be afraid to ask, Care-Listen, offer hope, don't judge, and Treat-Take action, get assistance, and follow up.

"Ask how the people you work with and the people that work for you are doing. Make sure you take care of them and if need be, find treatment for them," said Stevens.

"Part of mitigating stress is building resilience through realistic training. We are reviewing and developing a resiliency education and training program that builds on our current Operational Stress Control program. We can also help by directing Sailors to available resources. It's important to remember that suicide does not discriminate — any Sailor can be at risk.

"The Navy is one big family, and it's important for each Sailor to feel that they are valued, appreciated, and have the coping and resiliency tools available to get through tough moments," added Stevens. Sailors are encouraged to visit the chaplain or medical department if they or someone they know is in need of help.

Being a Navy leader is a full time job, where there's no "room for amateurs," says Stevens. And the *Zeroing in on Excellence* and *CPO 365* initiatives are aimed at preparing Navy Chiefs to be the best leaders possible. Leading by example, embracing personal accountability, communicating clearly without ambiguity, and excelling in all endeavors are the foundation on which these programs are built.

"[These] are not single actions; they are deliberate mindsets that permeate our processes and procedures. [They do] not distract from or add to existing individual roles and responsibilities," he summarizes. "Our fundamental standard is to work hard, stay out of trouble and be good and decent people."



Lauren Armstrong is the Contributing Editor and Member of the FRA Auxiliary. She can be reached at lauren@fra.org.

There are many things you want to say. When you join FRA, you are heard. We listen closely, then take your message where it needs to go.

FRA gives voice to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel on Capitol Hill. Your mission was defending your country, FRA's mission is defending you.

Worried about losing your voice?

We listen to our members, and develop an aggressive legislative agenda each year to address important issues such as:

- Health Care Options for Retirees Under 65
- Expanded Retiree Access to VA Health Care
- Concurrent Receipt
- SBP Paid Up Coverage
- USFSPA

Visit www.fra.org to read our Legislative Agenda and see all the ways we are making sure your needs are met. We are proud to serve you, and will make sure your voice is heard.

Join now and be heard.

1-800-FRA-1924 www.fra.org



Your Mission • Your Voice

Join FRA today
2 years only \$48!*

* First time members only



No
Contract

NEW

Finally, a cell phone that's... a phone.

Better
Sound and
Longer Battery Life

Introducing the all-new Jitterbug® Plus.

We've made it even better... without making it harder to use.

All my friends have new cell phones. They carry them around with them all day, like mini computers, with little tiny keyboards and hundreds of programs which are supposed to make their life easier. Trouble is... my friends can't use them. The keypads are too small, the displays are hard to see and the phones are so complicated that my friends end up borrowing my Jitterbug when they need to make a call. I don't mind... I just got a new phone too... **the new Jitterbug Plus. Now I have all the things I loved about my Jitterbug phone along with some great new features that make it even better!**

GreatCall® created the Jitterbug with one thing in mind – to offer people a cell phone that's easy to see and hear, simple to use and affordable. Now, they've made the cell phone experience even better with the Jitterbug Plus. It features a lightweight, comfortable design with a backlit keypad and big, legible numbers. There is even a dial tone so you know the phone is ready to use. You can also increase the volume with one touch and the speaker's been improved so you get great audio quality and can hear every word. The battery has been improved too– it's one of the longest lasting

Introducing
DoubleTime!
Double your monthly
minutes for life
with activation by 03/31/13

on the market– so you won't have to charge it as often. The phone comes to you with your account already set up and is easy to activate.

The rate plans are simple too. Why pay for minutes you'll never use? There are a variety of affordable plans. Plus, you don't have to worry about finding yourself stuck with no minutes– that's

Order now and receive a **FREE Car Charger** for your Jitterbug – a \$24.99 value. Call now!

All-New
jitterbug
plus

firstSTREET
for Boomers and Beyond®
1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



Available in
Silver and Red.

	Basic 14	Basic 19
Monthly Minutes	50	100 DoubleTime 200
Monthly Rate	\$14.99	\$19.99
Operator Assistance	24/7	24/7
911 Access	FREE	FREE
Long Distance Calls	No add'l charge	No add'l charge
Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
Friendly Return Policy ¹	30 days	30 days

More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

the problem with prepaid phones. Since there is no contract to sign, you are not locked in for years at a time and won't be subject to early termination fees.

Now, when you sign up for our Basic 19 plan, you'll double your monthly minutes for the same price.

The U.S.-based customer service is knowledgeable and helpful and the phone gets service virtually anywhere in the continental U.S. Above all, you'll get one-touch access to a friendly, and helpful GreatCall operator. They can look up numbers, and even dial them for you! They are always there to help you when you need them.

Call now and get a FREE Car Charger – a \$24.99 value. Try the

Jitterbug Plus for yourself for 30 days and if you don't love it, just return it for a refund¹ of the product purchase price. Call now – helpful Jitterbug experts are ready to answer your questions.

Jitterbug Cell Phone

Ask how you can get **DoubleTime for Life!**

Please mention promotional code 46445.

1-877-569-8635

www.jitterbugdirect.com

We proudly accept the following credit cards.



IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: DoubleTime offer valid on Basic 19 Plan and applies to new GreatCall customers only. Offer ends 3/31/13. Offer valid until plan is changed or cancelled. All GreatCall phones require a one-time set up fee of \$35. Coverage and service are not available everywhere. You will not be able to make 9-1-1 calls when cellular service is not available. Rate plans do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and are subject to change. No roaming or long distance charges for domestic calls within the U.S. There are no additional fees to call GreatCall's 24-hour U.S. Based Customer Service. However, for calls to an Operator in which a service is completed, minutes will be deducted from your monthly balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator, plus an additional 5 minutes. ¹ We will refund the full price of the GreatCall phone if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage. If you have more than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will apply for each minute over 30 minutes. The activation fee and shipping charges are not refundable. Jitterbug and GreatCall are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Samsung is a registered trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. Copyright ©2013 Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC. Copyright ©2013 GreatCall, Inc. Copyright ©2013 by firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc. All rights reserved.

FRA's Book of Memories

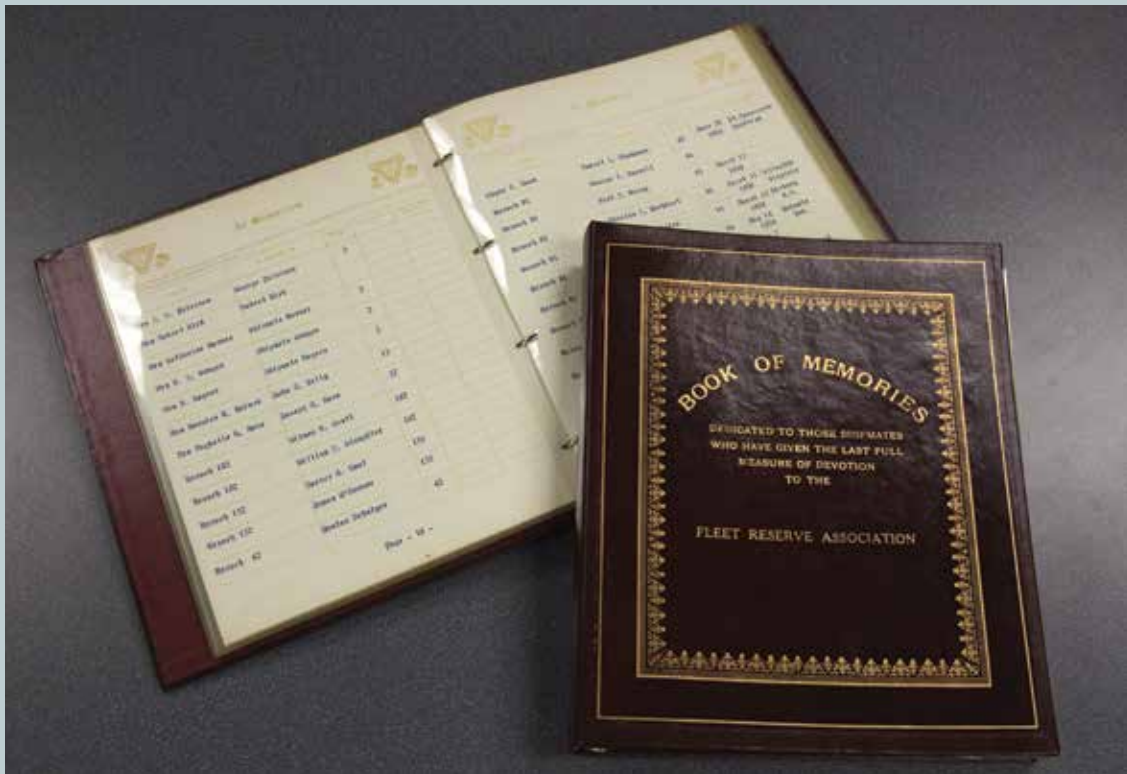
AS IT HAS FOR more than 50 years, FRA National Headquarters (NHQ) maintains a *Book of Memories* as a way to honor and perpetuate the memory of Shipmates and Auxiliary members who have joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander. Instituted in 1959, the *Book of Memories* now fills nearly 19 volumes and is kept in the library at NHQ in Alexandria, Va.

Each of the more than 34,000 entries has been accompanied by a donation, but there is no minimum monetary contribution required to have a name entered in the *Book*. When the *Book of Memories* was originally conceived, donations were placed in a special fund established to pay the mortgage on the NHQ building. When the mortgage was paid in full in 1961, shipmates felt that memorializing their departed members in this way was most fitting and voted to continue the program. All donations are now placed in FRA's general fund to provide for the Association's future stability.

There are currently 19 leather-bound volumes of the *Book of Memories*, each embossed in 10-carat gold lettering. Entered in Old English typeface, the entries include the name and Branch or Unit number of the person being remembered, as well as the donor's name.

To request an entry in the *Book of Memories*, send the name and Branch/Unit number of the person you wish to honor, along with your name and donation, to FRA National Headquarters, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. It is also helpful to include the date of death and place of burial, if known.

Shipmates who live near or are visiting the D.C. area are always welcome at FRA NHQ and visitors are invited to view the *Book of Memories* any time.



NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Adamson, John W, ADC, USN	001	Gunwall, Gordon L, CAPT, USN	136
Anderson, Glen J, DTC, USN	163	Hafele, Robert C, MSGT, USMC	208
Baer, Leonard G, MMC, USN	MAL	Hamady, Edward G, QMCS, USN	MAL
Baer, Francis R, AMC, USN	060	Hansen, Gaylord L, POC, USN	298
Blomquist, James E, HMCM, USN	376	Harvey, Kenneth L, SKC, USN	047
Bowers, Allen G, CDR, USN	161	Hassen, Orville A, AGCM, USN	MAL
Bowman, C David, MCPO, USCG	172	Haygood, Jess W, HTC, USN	089
Boyle, John J, QM1, USN	230	Hill, Daniel L, MSC	136
Bradley, Edward F, ICC(SS), USN	008	Hogan, Philip J, POCM, USN	090
Brady, Daniel E, AMCS, USN	374	Holcombe, Frank O, ADCS, USN	293
Breitbarth, Vern, CPO, USN	163	Houseknecht, Roger A, CPO, USN	MAL
Brink, Kenneth J, MGYSGT, USMC	MAL	Huggins, Aulbie D, TDCS, USN	264
Brooks, George, BT1, USN	MAL	Jack, James, ICC, USN	MAL
Bustria, Dionisio, SD1, USN	154	Jeno, Kenneth E, CPO, USN	MAL
Caldwell, Frank E, BTCS, USN	MAL	John, George E, MSGT, USMC	097
Caldwell, Millard, BMC, USN	194	Johnson, Charles F, DTC, USN	046
Campbell, John N, ENCS, USCG	020	Jones, Michael J, NCC, USN	311
Carlton, William H, MS1, USN	099	Kapala, Theodore, POC, USN	MAL
Casiano, Bienvenido M., MSCM, USN	247	Karney, James D, DM1, USN	MAL
Cason, Dan O, RMCS, USN	MAL	Kessler, William E, LT, USN	005
Close, David L, SD2, USN	172	Kirk, William F, MMC, USN	068
Clutter, Lonnie K, BMCS, USN	309	Klopp, John, YNC, USN	MAL
Cochran, Myrlyn J, AK1, USN	MAL	Konczak, Casmer, SHC, USN	376
Constantino, Isidoro R, SKC, USN	010	Krewson, Leonard M, ATC, USN	068
Cooper, Joseph Z., SH3, USN	363	Landry, Charles H, VADM, USN	162
Cottenmyre, Robert E, ABEC, USN	007	Lencki, Walt, CPL, USMC	328
Cowman, Joseph H, SFC, USN	254	Lincoln, Howard R, AFCM, USN	MAL
Creighton, Jack, OSCS, USN	MAL	Lisi, Michael N, BMC, USN	229
Datin, James, HMCS, USN	300	Litchford, Larry J, LCDR, USN	MAL
Davis, John L, STCM, USN	290	Long, Donald E, CTRCS, USN	274
De La Rosa, Ernesto, SKC, USN	MAL	Lowery, Raymond E, ADJC, USNR	097
Demers, Roland C, MSC, USN	285	MacPherson, Carl L, FTCM, USN	070
Dickenson, Houston T, CSC, USN	060	Malone, Cam A, ADC, USN	061
Doran, John R, ATC, USN	070	Manzano, Julian, MS1, USN	247
Drouin, Arthur A, RMC(SS), USN	192	Martin, Robert E, BMC, USN	276
Dunsmore, William T, CSC, USN	MAL	Martin, Joe N, PHC, USN	281
Early, Wiley H, POCS, USN	MAL	Mathews, James F, AFCM, USN	147
PRPSC, Easley, Murry L, ETC, USN	022	May, Carroll W, SKC, USN	048
Edwards, Steveson H, RM1, USN	MAL	McClintic, Elwood S, PRCS, USN	099
Esterbrooks, Robert C, RADM, USN	163	McDermott, Warren C, HMC, USN	MAL
Evans, Hilmer, MMC/E7, USN	011	McGaha, Dock B, BMC, USN	089
Faregna, Dominick, CSC, USN	071	McGee, George H, CSC, USN	307
Fincher, Joseph A, BM2, USN	186	McGinnis, Donald H, RMC, USN	382
Frankenberg, Ellery C, YNC, USN	130	McIntosh, Francis W, CDR, USN	175
Gaither, William W, ACCS, USN	259	Meana, Rogelio R., USN	154
Gaynor, Lawrence A, QMC, USN	MAL	Mellinger, Paul C, SCPO, USN	182
Gelles, Robert S, AEC, USN	126	Mitchell, Robert M, CSCS, USN	086
Gibson, Jefferson L, MSC, USN	112	Monette, John J, ADRC, USN	MAL
Giles, William M, HTCS, USN	MAL	Morgan, James M, TMCS, USN	175
Goodwin, Roy G, RMCS, USN	264	Morgana, Robert V, GMCS, USN	MAL
Greenwald, Frank W, PHC, USN	MAL	Morrill, John A, CSCM, USN	047
		Morrison, Ernest S, SDC, USN	120
		Murphy, William C, PNCM, USN	182



NAME	BRANCH
Murray, Edward P, CDR, USN	MAL
Neal, James E., CPL, USMC	170
Nelson, John E, MMCS, USN	MAL
Nelson, Lavon A, YNCM, USNR	136
Nichols, Larry D, CWO3, USN	216
Nolter, Kenneth G, BMC, USN	115
Norris, William A, ATC, USN	147
Nyquist, Paul W, AT1, USN	276
O'Donnell, James E., USN	130
O'Quin, Norman E, EMCS, USN	161
Okrasinski, Joseph N, AFCM, USN	181
Oneil, William F, LT, USN	181
Ott, John J, YNC, USN	MAL
Paige, Arthur E, 1STSGT, USMC	207
Pallesen, Robert D, MSGT, USMC	MAL
Patnode, Paul A, AKC, USN	124
Perate, Frank L, CSC, USN	117
Pevehouse, Roy T, AO1, USN	101
Posadas, Alfredo A., SD1, USN	154
Preston, Leonard H, LCDR, USN	126
Reese, Thomas W, EMC, USN	047
Reid, William H, SH1, USN	267
Reid, Merle E, ETC, USN	MAL
Rice, Russell G, YNCS, USN	292
Robare, Robert A, AK1, USN	147
Roberts, Brandon A, QMC, USN	126
Roddenberry, Morris S, BTCM, USN	MAL
Rooks, Jerald M, AO1, USN	184
Ross, Arthur E, BM2, USN	MAL
Roth, William C, SOC, USN	186
Schneider, Jerry, SCPO, USN	027
Scruggs, James R, ADRC, USN	278
Sestilio, Emidio V, CPO, USN	MAL
Sheffield, John F, YN1, USN	MAL
Smith, Alfred, SCPO, USN	181
Sooter, Will J, MSGT, USMC	313
Sprouse, Charles E, SK1, USN	290
Stackhouse, Thomas, CMC, USN	192
Stadler, Robert L, RMC, USN	269

**AE/AOE Sailors Association**

September 11–15, 2013, Nashville, TN.
Contact Kurt Julsen, 1201 Autumn Lane,
Anchorage, AK 99504, 907-333-0681,
julsen@acsalaksa

MASS-2/MTACS-2

September 23–26, 2013, Las Vegas, NV.
Contact George Macartie, 11066 Red
Robin Pl., San Diego, CA 92126, 858-
566-5303, mass-2@sbcglobal.net

**NAS Sanford, FL and All Squadrons,
1942–1968**

June 27–30, 2013, Sanford, FL. Contact
Gearld Bohm, 450 River Drive, Debary, FL
32713.9711, 386-668-4851, DLFRSF@
aol.com

USS Agerholm (DD-826)

September 26–29, 2013, Salt Lake City,
UT. Contact Arthur Hroncich, President,
23 Greenleaf Drive, Clifton Park, NY
12065, 518-373-8363, arturohr@msn.
com

USS Antietam (CV/CVA/CVS-36)

September 18–22, 2013, Cleveland, OH.
Contact L. Ray Young, 140 N. Edgemoor,
Wichita, KS 67208, 316-425-5693, lyo-
nel.young@cox.net

USS Camp (DER-251)

October 7–10, 2013, Wilmington, NC.
Contact Gail Sweeden, 865-482-7981,
gsweeden@att.net

USS Darter (SS-576)

April 18–21, 2013, N. Charleston, SC.
Contact Michael Barham, Chairman, 908-
445-5869, xcopnad@comcast.net

USS Galveston (CLG-3)

September 11–15, 2013, St. Louis, MO.
Contact Tom “Soupy” Campbell, Jr.,
310 Monroe Ave., Edgewater Park, NJ
08010-1822, 866-398-2655, galveston@
comcast.net

**USS Hornet (CV-8/CV-12/CVA-12/CVS-
12) U.S. Navy/Marines**

September 24–29, 2013, Providence, RI.
Contact Carl & Sandy Burket, Secretary,
PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673,
814-224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com

**USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7) Ship-
mates**

October 2–6, 2013, San Diego, CA.
Contact Robert G. Mcanally, 152 Frissell
Street, Hampton, VA 23663, 757-723-
0317, yujack@megalink.net

USS James E. Kyes (DD-787)

September 25–29, 2013, Colorado Spgs,
CO. Contact Rick Warden, 1714 Sophia
St., Carthage, MO 64836, 417-358-2505,
rick.warden@att.net

USS John A. Bole (DD-755)

September 11–14, 2013, San Diego, CA.
Contact Ron Shipley, 921 Illinois Avenue,
Ottawa, IL 61350, 815-434-7483, shi-
pley4672@sbcglobal.net

**USS Jupiter (AVS-8)/USS Stoddert
(DDG-22)**

October 2–6, 2013, Seattle, WA. Contact
John Dishaw, 3035 Charlotte St, Newbury
Park, CA 91320-4448, 805-480-4038,
jbdishaw@verison.net

USS Louisville (CA-28)

September 8–13, 2013, St. Charles,
MO. Contact Mike Marino, 33 Windham
Crescent, Kings Park, NY 11754,
631-265-0526

USS Mansfield (DD-728)

September 11–15, 2013, San Francisco,
CA. Contact Allen Brueckner, 925-685-
6033, brueckner@sbcglobal.net

USS New Jersey (BB-62)

September 11–15, 2013, Virginia Beach,
VA. Visit www.USSNewJersey.org

USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association

September 18–23, 2013, Savannah, GA.
Contact Andy Lewallen, 4206 Choctaw
Dr., Huntsville, AL 35801, alewallen@
knology.net

USS Richard E. Byrd (DDG-23)

September 26–28, 2013, Jacksonville,
FL. Contact David L. Cunningham,
916 Timberlake Drive, Virginia Beach,
VA 23464-3232, 757-467-6682,
DCunnin884@aol.com

USS Rushmore (LSD-14 & LSD-47)

September 21–26, 2013, Virginia Beach,
VA. Contact Frank Faulhefer, 6513
Charles Ct, Macungie, PA 18062, 610-
965-1515, f.faulhefer@att.net

USS Seawolf (SSN-575)

September 18–22, 2013, Kissimmee,
FL. Contact Scott Jaklin, 8516 21st Ave.,
Kenosha, WI 53143, 262-237-8516,
SCOTTJAKLIN@SSN575.com

USS Stickell (DD/DDR-888)

October 11–14, 2013, Pawley's Island,
SC. Contact Richard Janson, 4705
Harness Lane, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576,
732-232-5599, jetta398@gmail.com

**USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN-634)
All Hands**

September 11–15, 2013, Jacksonville, FL.
Contact 972-298-8807, jeff@stonyj634.
org

**USS Tattnell (DDG-19)/USS Charles F.
Adams (DDG-2)**

April 14–18, 2013, Jacksonville, FL.
Contact Richard Harmon, 1440 E.
Minnesota Ave., Orange City, FL 32763-
3012, 386-235-8723, dharmonlpga1@
aol.com

USS Tennessee (BB-43)

May 14–17, 2013, Myrtle Beach, SC.
Contact John C. Dussault, 760-371-5757,
dussaulthandj184@yahoo.com

USS Trumpetfish (SS-425)

November 6–11, 2013, Jacksonville, FL.
Contact Terry Trump, 404 Pinehurst Ave,
Summerville, SC 29483, 843-873-9563,
ss425@hotmail.com

**VP-68/NARDET/NARCEN/AFFILIATED
UNITS**

April 27, 2013, NAS Patuxent River MD.
Contact George (Doc) Durity, 108 Reeves
Street, Walterboro, SC 29488, 843-538-
1122, gdurity1492@yahoo.com

VQ-1, 2, 5 & 6 Association (All Eras)

October 3–6, 2013, San Antonio, TX.
Contact Mike Chicvara, 17615 N. 131st
Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-240-
0749, amcsret@cox.net

Members can post reunions online at www.fra.org,
submit to reunions@fra.org or mail to: FRA Reunions,
125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

LCDR Bob Hamilton – AVORD LDO/636X

Last duty stations were COMNAVAIRPAC (Staff Nuclear Weapons Officer) and NUCWPNTA-GRUPAC (Inspections Dept). He retired in 1980. Please contact Russell Rhine at 485 Monegan Rd, Whitefish, MT 59937-8216 or 406-862-5084.

RM1 Penney and RM1 Royal

Penney and Royal were RM1s in 1967, when we attended CI-3 School together at NAB Coronado, en route to Vietnam. Penney was an assistant NILO. Please contact Bruce De Wald at sbdewald@earthlink.net

“Doc” Flores

He was a Pharmacist’s Mate who served with Submarine Squadron 6 and was at Midway Island in 1944 during WWII. I have something of value that belongs to him. Please contact Lt. Frederick E. Gore, USN (Ret.) at 101 Southview Drive, Brevard, NC 28712-4027 or 864-354-6104.

Recruit CO 204, RTC San Diego, October 1976 or Recruit CO 289, RTC San Diego, January 1977

Anyone graduating from these recruit companies, please contact DM1 Larry Brown, Company Commander, at lwsbrown62@q.com or 971-599-3999.

Gerald Apodiaca

He was a Navy deep sea diver in Portsmouth, Va., in the 1960s. Please contact Charlie Drefs at charliedrefs@yahoo.com.

Former Members of VP-68/NARDET/NARCEN and Affiliated Units

to attend reunion and join the alumni association. Contact Capt. Richard Perkins (Retired) at vp68co@gmail.com

These notices are published on a space available basis. Notices must be submitted in writing.

E-mail fratoday@fra.org or mail your request to: FRA, Looking for..., 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA, 22314.



Looking for Lost Shipmates? FRA can help!

FRA TODAY’S “LOOKING FOR ...” column is published on a space available basis and has been successful in reuniting many shipmates. Notices must be submitted in writing to fratoday@fra.org or you can mail your request to FRA, Looking for, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

FRA’s Facebook page is also a great place to find old friends, both military and civilian. Like FRA at www.fra.org/fb and post your request there.

OTHER RESOURCES:

TogetherWeServed (TWS): FRA has an ongoing partnership with TWS, a website where military veterans can reconnect.

Visit navy.togetherweserved.com, marines.togetherweserved.com or coast-guard.togetherweserved.com to look for old buddies. (Some TWS services are available free of charge; other require an annual paid membership.)

Military.com: Visit www.military.com/buddy-finder to search for former shipmates.

National Archives: Another great resource is www.archives.gov/veterans/locate-service-members.html



www.fra.org/fb

TAPS continued from page 30

Stellick, Roland G, ADRC, USN	136
Stewart, Kenneth W, HM1, USN	182
Stockton, Billy J, SHCM, USN	MAL
Stuermer, Harry W, CDR, USN	175
Sulzer, Thomas G, LCDR, USN	MAL
Sweeny, Edgar R, ENCS, USN	050

Tate, Albert J, ADJC, USN	160
Taylor, Melvin J, SMC, USN	009
Teems, Billy R, ENC, USN	068
Temperly, Charles D, AT1, USN	147
Trahan, George W, ADRC, USN	120
Tucker, Jack B, MTCS, USN	099

Valonis, Stanley, AOC, USN	022
Vandelle, Richard C, UTC, USN	219
Vanderslice, Raymond H, PHC, USN	161
Von Willer, Theodore E, ADC, USN	316
Vonada, Dean C, YNC, USN	060

Waggoner, Carl Eugene, PO1, USN	068
Webb, William W., HMCM, USN	293
West, Gernie C., BMCS, USN	MAL
Wheeler, Russell Allen, MMCS, USN	269
Williams, Robert N, RMCS, USN	MAL
Wulf, Arthur H, AMSC, USNR	185

Names in **red** indicate 50 year continuous members.

Technology Simplified – New and Improved

FREE Automatic Software Updates

WOW... A Computer Designed For YOU, Not Your Grandchildren!

...It's easy to read. It's easy to see.

It's even easier to understand and use! Just plug it in!!!

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses, spam and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind.

This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free

WOW! The perfect name for this amazing computer. I have been using it for about a month and thoroughly enjoy the speed and ease in which I am able to download pictures from my camera and share them with family and friends via email. Everything is so easy to use at the touch of my fingertips. To be able to chat with and see my grandchildren is as though they are here with me. I haven't begun to explore all the benefits of this computer. It has opened up a whole new world for me. I love it, love it, love it!

– Carol K., Benbrook, TX



Simple navigation, so you never get lost!

NEW Touch Screen Technology

designed for SENIORS®
Big Bright Screen
One-touch "zoom" magnification
No bulky tower

- ...surf the internet**
Get current weather & news.
- ...send and receive emails, and video chat**
Keep up with family and friends.
- ...play games online**
hundreds to choose from!

U.S. Based Customer Service

and literally puts the world at your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to

Games– you name it... and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help.

Until now the very people who could benefit most from E-mail, and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time you took part? Call now, and a patient, knowledgeable product expert will tell you how

you can try it in your home for 30 days. If you are not totally satisfied, simply return it within 30 days for a refund of the product purchase price. Call today.



Call now for our special promotional price!

Please mention promotional code 46446.

1-877-793-4289



1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



BRANCH 293 ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.

Branch Membership Chairman Frank Gates (left) presents embroidered shirts to Shipmates Robert and Nancy Burkhard for their FRA recruiting efforts. When this photo was taken they had collectively recruited more than 50 new members!



BRANCH 294 CROSSVILLE, TENN.

Shipmate William Guffey (right) and his grandson, Shipmate Brandon Anderson, were recognized during Veterans Day ceremonies in Crossville. Shipmate Guffey proudly purchased an FRA Life Membership for his grandson as a tribute to Brandon's graduation from Boot Camp.



BRANCH 127 BICOL NABUA, PHILIPPINES

Branch President William Solevin (left), assisted by Branch Secretary Ely Barachina (in the background), awards the 40-year continuous membership pin to Jorge Masculino (right) during the celebration of the 63rd Foundation Anniversary of Branch 127.



BRANCH 186 HERNANDO, FLA.

Six Pearl Harbor survivors attended the Branch's Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony. Shown (l to r) are Don Bloomfield, Jack Cissel, Albert DeMarco, Ted Archambault, Arthur Fusco and Robert Bewley.



BRANCH 289 IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIF.

Branch chairman for Membership and Retention Gene Dugan (white shirt) presents Shipmate Joseph Corsi with his 60-year continuous membership pin. Shipmate Joe joined the FRA on October 10, 1952, and has served as Branch Secretary /Treasurer for more than 20 years, a term as Branch President, and somehow still found time to fulfill National Chaplain duties in 1997-1998.

BRANCH 254 MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

The Branch Christmas Social was well attended by (l to r, front row) Shipmates Bill Cole, John Popa, Richard Osterman, Bill Pinkston; (back row) James Johnson, Gene Brown, Donald Keen, Branch VP Bertl Johnson, PNP Don Muccheck, PNP George Kaye, Branch President Tom Feddon, George Dusenbury and Roy Batton.

**BRANCH 208 JACKSONVILLE, N.C.**

Branch representatives spread holiday cheer to four charitable organizations in the Jacksonville area. On a single day, Branch President Raymond Applewhite and PNT Bill Hemmingway presented \$250 checks to the local Christmas Cheer program and Soup Kitchen efforts, the Social Services Director of the Salvation Army and the USO (shown, l to r, are Applewhite; Deborah Fisher, Director of Jacksonville USO; Hemmingway, and Marisa Reeder, Assistant USO Director).

BRANCH 222 SLIDELL, LA.

Branch Secretary Mark Dernovsek (right) presents Branch President Larry Cole with his 40-year continuous membership pin and certificate at the annual Christmas party.

**BRANCH 267 ST. LOUIS, MO.**

Members of Branch and Unit 267 participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Florissant, Mo. The crowd loved the pontoon boat and applauded the USN, USMC, USCG and FRA.

BRANCH 192 FALLON, NEV.

Branch President Larry Briggs presents Shipmate Jerome Beicher (right) with his 45-year service award pin.



To submit a photo for *News From the Branches*, please e-mail a photo as an attachment in jpeg format to FRAToday@fra.org or mail a high-quality photograph to *FRA Today*, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include a brief description of the photograph and include the names of those pictured. Laser prints and scanned copies of photographs cannot be accepted.

A Message from the Southeast Regional President

MY REGIONAL YEAR STARTED when I attended the 65th Anniversary of America's First Veterans Day in Birmingham, Ala. FRA Regional President James Robbins also attended and with us was his wife LAFRA PNP Sandra Robbins and LAFRA NT Ronalee S. Klase. It was an interesting weekend to say the least. I learned that Alabama is the founder of Veterans Day and Birmingham started and sponsors the National Veterans Award. Our hosts for the weekend were Branch 112 President Bobby Findley and his wife, Earline, and what a gracious host and hostess they were. Thank you very much.

December 7, 2012, Regional Vice President Ann Lyons attended the Pearl Harbor Ceremony in Mayport, Fla. Each year Atlantic Beach Branch and Unit 290 host the event. She told me that it was very impressive and very well attended, not just by the FRA and LA FRA members, but also other veteran groups. She also told me that the weather did not cooperate so, like last year, the ceremony was held pier side.

The 33rd Service of Remembrance for the USCGC Blackthorn was held January 28, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. FRA RPSE James Robbins and I placed a wreath (provided by Branch and Unit 291) at the monument in memory of the 23 crew members who lost their lives when the USCGC Blackthorn went down. Several members of the Southeast Region were in attendance and among them were FRA National President Mark A. Kilgore and LA FRA National Treasurer Ronalee Klase.

Each unit in the region is involved in doing whatever they can to give back to their community and helping others in need. They visit patients in the Navy and VA hospitals, some do fundraising to donate to the Wounded Warrior Foundation, they collect different items to send overseas, they adopt a class of cadets and help them with whatever they need, such as getting new uniforms. They visit members living in assisted living and nursing homes and bring them items they need that are not provided and homemade "goodies," which they really enjoy. They send care packages and cards to the troops in Afghanistan. Some do Meals On Wheels; drive those who cannot drive anymore to their doctor's appointment, to the pharmacy to fill their prescriptions, to the grocery store, and beauty salon.

To promote Americanism, unit members show their support in helping place flags on the graves of our deceased military on special days such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also help take the flags down after each event. They also give flags and show the proper way to display the flag, how to fold the flag and how to retire the flag. They also encourage people to fly the flag 24/7. Some units and branches are also very much involved in Honor Flights. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, they provide meals to families who need a helping hand and they collect toys for Toys for Tots. These are just a few things the members of the Ladies Auxiliary in the Southeast Region are doing, whether they are small unit or large unit. With the economy the way it is now, they still find ways to give back to their community and I am proud to be one of them. Thank you for all that you do for your unit, your community and the LA FRA.



BABE KILGORE
Regional President Southeast



FRA RPSE Jim Robbins (l) and LA FRA RPSE Babe Kilgore (r) prepare to present an FRA wreath at the USCGC Blackthorn Memorial in St. Petersburg, Fla.

**ATTENTION:
U.S. NAVY VETERANS
MESOTHELIOMA
COMPENSATION CLAIMS
FILING DEADLINE**

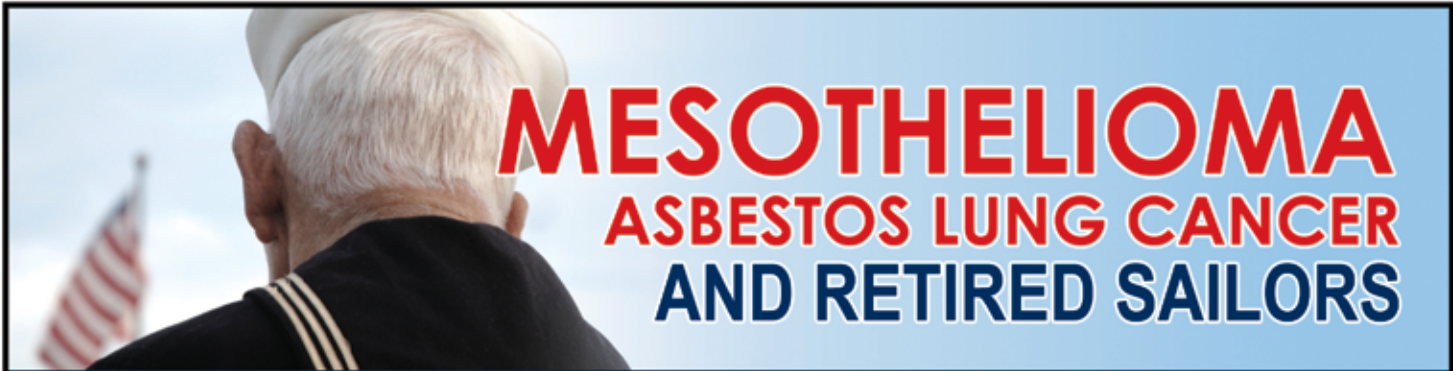
U.S. Navy veterans have been exposed to asbestos onboard ships and many have developed mesothelioma lung cancer as a result. Millions of dollars in compensation are available for those who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma lung cancer and their loved ones. Thousands of US Navy veterans have already received compensation. Strict time deadlines may bar late claims. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with mesothelioma then you need to ***call now*** for a free consultation and *Claims Information & Evaluation Package*.

CALL NOW TOLL FREE!
1-888-310-2138
NAVY VETERANS MESOTHELIOMA CLAIMS HOTLINE

Sponsored by Quinn Law Firm. Nationwide representation of US NAVY Veterans and their families in mesothelioma claims. In home appointments are available nationwide by appointment only. Fees, costs, and expenses are charged only against any recovery that is made. No recovery – no fee. We do not sue the U.S. or Navy. Principal office Fort Worth, TX

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

MEMBER SERVICES
FRA
125 N. WEST STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754



MESOTHELIOMA ASBESTOS LUNG CANCER AND RETIRED SAILORS

Many sailors were exposed to asbestos onboard ships in the U.S. Navy. This asbestos exposure often causes lung cancer much later in life. Mesothelioma is a particular form of lung cancer that is only caused by exposure to asbestos.

FREE INITIAL LEGAL CONSULTATION

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with MESOTHELIOMA OR ASBESTOS LUNG CANCER, please call us immediately to find out about the compensation you may be entitled to recover.

We provide retired sailors and their families with a free no obligation initial legal consultation with an experienced lawyer.

We represent clients from all 50 states.

NO RISK TO CLIENTS

Our clients are never at risk of paying any fees, costs or expenses out of pocket. All legal fees, court costs and other expenses are paid by the client only out of any judgment or settlement in the case.

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIGHTS!

Your legal claims must be filed within the time period allowed by law or you and your family members will lose all of your rights to recover against the corporations that are responsible for your injuries. **CALL NOW!**

"These guys sure helped me out after I got diagnosed"

LeRoy Riddell

1935 - 2008

U.S. Navy Retired

Member VFW, DAV, American Legion and the Fleet Reserve

Former National President of the Retired Enlisted Association and client of The Johnson Law Firm.



THE JOHNSON LAW FIRM

CALL NOW! **1-888-MESO-HELP** TOLL FREE

1-888-637-6435



"Nationwide legal representation of mesothelioma and lung cancer victims"

In home and local appointments available nationwide by appointment only. Principal office Fort Worth, TX.

** Past successes cannot be an assurance of future successes since each case is decided on its own merits.*

