So, Just What Does FRA Mean to Me Anyway?

FRA's First Decade

FRA's Newest Life Members

The unique role that lighter-than-air ships played in WWII.
WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE OUR EXCLUSIVE SERIES OF OFFICIAL UNITED STATES NAVY CAREER SERVICE BIRTHSTONE RINGS:

- Each ring is handcrafted by America’s premiere maker of Military Rings.
- Solid 10KT Gold Navy Service Branch Emblem sits atop a brilliant capstone.
- Eight personal birthstones of your choice set on the inner bezel. Your Service Name in bold letters on the outer ring, along with two additional birthstones.
- The ring body is .925 Sterling Silver detailed with genuine 24KT Gold.

YOUR CHOICE OF NAVY CAREER INSIGNIA:

- The inside band is solid & smooth for comfort fit. Rings are never hollowed out!
- Your Career Insignia is featured on the side of the ring, opposite the United States Navy Emblem. Honor recipients may have their medal & ribbon on shank opposite their Career Insignia. (See order form below for details.)
- Thank you priced at just $239* (‘Optional genuine Diamond Rings are $389*)

HONOR RECIPIENTS

Shown with optional Diamond Birthstones and Hospital Corpsman

FREE FLAG PIN WITH EVERY ORDER

FOR OTHER FINE MILITARY RINGS & WATCHES VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES® ONLINE AT VETCOM
Featured

18 LIGHTER THAN AIR; TOUGH AS NAILS
In the early days of World War II, German U-Boats were wreaking havoc on Allied convoys. The use of non-rigid, lighter-than-air ships played a major role in countering enemy submarine operations around the globe.

Departments

2 COMMUNICATIONS

4 FROM THE BRIDGE

6 SHIPMATE FORUM

8 ON & OFF CAPITOL HILL
“What Congress Gives, Congress Can Take Away”

10 SO, JUST WHAT DOES FRA MEAN TO ME ANYWAY?

12 HISTORY & HERITAGE
The History of FRA: 1919–1929

14 NEW FRA LIFE MEMBERS

16 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
www.fra.org is a Membership Tool

29 REUNIONS

30 LOOKING FOR...

32 TAPS

34 NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

36 NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY OF THE FRA
Message from West Coast Regional President Joan Ellis

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
Non-rigid airships, or blimps, were a powerful weapon in countering German U-Boats during WWII. Their ability to remain stationary and travel low and slow made them the perfect platform for detecting enemy submarines.
What's Old is New Again

LIGHTER-THAN-AIR (LTA) CRAFTS — the subject of this month’s feature article — served an important role in winning WWII, but as technologies improved, the Navy phased them out in the early 1960s. New uses are now being found for this type of aircraft and the Navy is again using LTA crafts in exciting new ways.

Many actively serving members of today’s military view organizations like FRA in a similar light. Many are seen as fraternal organizations or “good ol’ boy” groups that really don’t “do” anything except provide a watering hole for aging veterans.

FRA is very proud of the fraternal bond our shipmates share, but our organization is and does so much more! As it has been for nearly nine decades, FRA is a strong advocate for enlisted personnel and their families, but many current and former service members don’t see that work as relevant to their lives. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Many service members, retirees and veterans are unaware of the threats to their current and future benefits. The reduction in cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for younger retirees (referenced on page 8) is a prime example. When I mention this cut in existing benefits to retirees outside our membership, many are surprised. It’s equally surprising to me that they’ve heard nothing about it. Such conversations offer a great opportunity to praise FRA’s work in reporting these threats and our efforts to thwart them. Even if they don’t choose to join our ranks, they are often willing to communicate their concerns to their elected officials through FRAs online Action Center.

Those who are aware of these threats often feel they are helpless to do anything about them. Many, particularly those currently serving, don’t feel comfortable communicating their concerns directly with their elected officials and they are understandably hesitant to engage in any sort of demonstration of the very rights they are sworn to protect.

This is where FRA comes in! We speak for them — in our congressional testimony, written communication with lawmakers and face-to-face visits with legislators on Capitol Hill — when they can’t. And we have the freedom to tell it like it is!

Protecting enlisted pay and benefits is our primary mission and the cornerstone of our very existence. (See 90th anniversary timeline on page 12.) It is also a key element in promoting the value of FRA membership and should be an essential element of our membership recruiting and retention efforts. Current members who are well-informed and engaged in advancing our legislative agenda are more likely to retain their status as FRA shipmates. And the relevance of our Association’s legislative advocacy work should be a strong selling point when promoting FRA to prospective members.

FRA is proud to be 90 years old and as relevant today as we’ve ever been!

Lauren Armstrong is FRA’s Director of Communications and serves as the Managing Editor of FRA Today. Please contact her at lauren@fra.org.
Over the years, digital electronic technology has made the way we live easier, safer and more convenient. In many cases, it’s even made many products more affordable... (remember how much the first VCR’s used to cost?). Unfortunately, the cost of many digital products, including the hearing aid never seemed to come down. Now, a new option has been invented... it’s called Perfect Choice HD™.

Perfect Choice HD is NOT a hearing aid. It is a Personal Sound Amplification Product (PSAP). Hearing aids can only be sold by an audiologist or a licensed hearing instrument specialist following hearing tests and fitting appointments. Once the audiologist had you tested and fitted, you would have to pay as much as $5000 for the product.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, there is Perfect Choice HD. It’s 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. 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.

Try it for yourself with our exclusive home trial. Some people need hearing aids but many just want the extra boost in volume that a PSAP gives them. We want you to be happy with Perfect Choice HD, so we are offering to let you try it for yourself. If you are not totally satisfied with this product, simply return it within 60 days for a refund of the full product purchase price. Don’t wait… don’t miss out on another conversation… call now!

Why Perfect Choice HD is the best choice!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lightweight / Inconspicuous</td>
<td>Less than 1 ounce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Quality</td>
<td>Excellent – Optimized for speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased Loudness</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test and Fitting Required</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-on-One Personal Set Up</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Return Policy</td>
<td>60 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 the lowest price ever.

Please mention promotional code 47648.

1-877-681-7921

Perfect Choice HD™ is not a hearing aid. If you believe you need a hearing aid, please consult a physician.
MEMBERSHIP IS THE ASSOCIATION’S top priority and FRA’s success depends on positioning our great organization for the future.

Since being elected as National President, I’ve had the opportunity to meet with many Sea Service leaders, both officers and enlisted personnel. During these meetings, the primary topic of discussion is always FRA’s mission to improve the quality of life for current and former enlisted service members and their families, including efforts to preserve and enhance the TRICARE benefit and access to it, prevent commissary closures and protect pay and allowances, to name a few. In many cases it became apparent that these leaders know little about these issues and even less about our organization and our efforts to address them.

It became obvious to me that our rank and file is not using the resources available to them. For example, many branches have members, friends or associates who could use their connections at military bases or in the community to promote our work. It is imperative that we reach out to these members and ask what they might be willing to do to assist us in getting the word out about the FRA. The worst-case scenario is that these members and friends of the FRA will be unable to help. But on the other hand, we might just get some great exposure at little to no expense.

Membership is everyone’s responsibility if we want the Association to thrive into the future.

It was disheartening to hear an installation commander chastise a local branch member for not being more visible within the base community and not using the base resources that were available to him. All we have to do is ask!

When located near a military installation, branch and regional officers should make an assertive effort to be good ambassadors and make themselves known to the base or installation leadership. Getting to know the officer in charge and senior enlisted personnel can create a relationship that’s beneficial for installation personnel and the FRA. Find out what FRA can do for these service members — set up an award or recognition program, volunteer at the Retired Activities Office, offer to share copies of FRA Today at the base hospital or clinic. Once a relationship has been established, it will be easier to gain access to clubs and exchanges, use the base publication to promote branch and regional events and promote FRA’s legislative advocacy work on behalf of service members, veterans and their families.

As regional presidents visit the branches in their respective regions, I encourage them to also make command visits whenever possible. These visits provide great visibility for the FRA and increase awareness in a community that’s teeming with prospective shipmates.

Membership is everyone’s responsibility if we want the Association to thrive into the future. Our National Headquarters staff is here to support us and provide us with the tools and guidance to succeed. Let’s all take a look at the assets available within our branches and regions, as well as those that may be available through other associations, so we can make this a great year for the FRA.

Virgil Courneya was elected to serve as FRA’s national president during the 2013–2014 Association year. He is a member of Branch 274 (Reno, Nev.) and can be reached at mgysgtvpc@att.net

FRA National President Virgil Courneya and his wife, Auxiliary Past National President Helen, prepare to present the FRA wreath during Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. During his time in Washington, NP Courneya also attended a White House breakfast, visited the Iwo Jima Memorial and attended a Marine Corps Ball to commemorate the Corps’ 238th birthday.
Heirloom Stein Brimming with Navy Pride

Only 10,000 will be hand-crafted

Strength and Honor
U.S. Navy Stein

30-ounce food-safe stoneware stein features wrap-around artwork by historical artist Dennis Lyall

Gleaming 22K gold accents command attention

Includes lyrics from "Anchors Aweigh" on the back

U.S. Navy emblems crown the metal lid and thumb rest

Shown smaller than actual height of 7¼ inches

Neither the Department of the Navy nor any other component of the Department of Defense has approved, endorsed or authorized this product.

Saluting Our Naval Heroes

Launched in 1775, the U.S. Navy is the world’s undisputed naval superpower—and today we honor its proud tradition and those who serve with the handsome new Strength and Honor U.S. Navy Stein, available exclusively from The Bradford Exchange. This exceptional stein showcases full-color wrap-around U.S. Navy art by the esteemed Dennis Lyall, as well as lyrics from “Anchors Aweigh,” the official U.S. Navy song, on the reverse side. It also features a sculptural rope design handle “threaded” with 22K gold accents, and U.S. Navy emblems on the metal alloy lid and thumb rest. Patriotic stars and stripes and the inspiring title enhance its distinctive good looks. Fill this 30-ounce drink-safe stoneware stein with your favorite beverage and toast the dedicated individuals who make our navy strong!

Great value; satisfaction guaranteed

Only 10,000 steins will ever be hand-crafted, so order now in four interest-free installments of only $24.99 each, for a total of $99.95*. Our 365-day money-back guarantee assures your complete satisfaction. To order, send no money now. Just complete and mail the Reservation Application immediately.

www.bradfordexchange.com/navystein

©2014 Dennis Lyall ©2014 BGE 01-19258-001-BI

RESERVATION APPLICATION
SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE
9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the Strength and Honor U.S. Navy Stein for me as described in this announcement. Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Signature

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

Address

City

State

Zip

*Plus $14.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 10,000 steins worldwide. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
No Branch Can Bear Fruit by Itself

I have personally observed history in the making since the Great Depression and WWII. The denizens of Washington, D.C., throw money, men, and materials to the armed forces preceding and during armed conflict, but begin to squeeze every drop back even before the last shot is fired. The Pentagon is already starting to reduce military budgets, despite the Middle East conflicts. We must prepare to battle this shortsightedness through the group strength of the FRA. Members and veterans of the Sea Services are facing difficult challenges in protecting their benefits and way of life. Military personnel can do extraordinary things by making their voices heard and by making their actions count.

FRA is your advocate to Congress and the myriad bureaucracies of the U.S. government. It is an unusual organization wherein its annual agenda is formulated through branch resolutions, voted on by a majority of members and adopted at annual conventions. You can help control all activities within the organization (including election of branch, regional, and national officers) through your branch membership. Just be there to use it!

Numerous FRA branches are barely limping along, being kept alive by a few dedicated shipmates, some well past their prime. What keeps so many members from getting involved in causes and issues? Some contend that many people with strong fundamental knowledge feel a sense of powerlessness. Others don’t get involved because they believe they must be eloquent to contribute. Nothing could be further from the truth. We need your inputs.

At age 90, I’m ready to sit back and ruminate over my 65 years of continuous FRA membership, and savor the memory of serving as a delegate to over 30 regional and national conventions. We desperately need your involvement to keep our branches alive and relevant.

Richard Law

FRA Response: Like you, Shipmate, FRA turns 90 this year. And, like you, the Association has seen many cycles of military downsizing. Right now, cuts to retired pay, stateside commissaries, veterans’ health benefits, and more are under discussion in Washington. Our HQ legislative team is on top of the issues, but it is really the discussion and action that takes place at the individual member and branch level that truly make the voice of our membership heard on Capitol Hill. Your message is relevant to every member and it should read like the old recruiting posters: FRA Needs YOU—to strengthen our Association and write to your Congressional representatives!

Hospital Corpsman Pride

As a retired Master Chief Hospital Corpsman, your [February 2013] article captured an aspect of being a Hospital Corpsman that gave me a strong sense of pride and accomplishment. I was an Independent Duty Hospital Corpsman assigned to the Destroyers USS Henry W. Tucker (DD-875) and USS Reeves (DLG-24) during the Vietnam War. The almost three years on those two ships were spent at sea off the Vietnam Coast doing fire support and search and rescue missions. The time spent was sometimes stressful, but always rewarding and served with pride.

After my sea duty I was assigned in-country Vietnam to the Naval Station Hospital at DaNang (Nov. 1967 to Nov. 1968). My pride at being a Hospital Corpsman was never so great as seeing the outstanding work being done by the young Hospital Corpsmen at the Station Hospital and those who were assigned with the Marine Corps companies during the 1968 Tet Offensive. Thank you for your most outstanding article.

Otis L. Spencer

FRA Response: Thank you for sharing your story with us—we always strive to create a personal connection to shipmates in our feature stories. To take it one step further, did you know that FRA’s Education Foundation has a scholarship program specifically for children of past and present enlisted Navy medical personnel who have served with the Marine Corps? It’s called the Colonel Hazel Elizabeth Benn Scholarship, and you can read more about it on the FRA website. Go to www.fra.org, click the About tab, then click the “FRA Education Foundation Scholarships” link.

Tricare For Life and the 40-Mile Restriction

In the June 2013 issue under “Tricare Access” Shipmate Philipp stated that he retired in 1966, which would put him in the Tricare for Life program. I am in Tricare for Life and would like to know if this 40-mile restriction and change to Tricare Standard affects me. I was under the impression that those currently in the Tricare for Life program were excluded from this change. Please inform me if I am correct or not.

Jimmie Evans

FRA Response: You are correct. The 40-mile restriction does NOT apply to Tricare-for-Life (TFL) beneficiaries.
Get the card that helps your voice be heard.

Apply for the FRA USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard® and take advantage of:

- No annual fee¹
- Variable purchase APR as low as 10.9%
- 0% introductory APR for 12 months on balance transfers and convenience checks made in the first three months of account opening (10.9% to 25.9% variable APR on these balances after 12 months)
- USAA Rewards points that you can redeem for your choice of cash, merchandise or other exciting rewards²

USAA Bank, which is dedicated to serving the military community, helps make it easier to support the FRA.

Apply today.

usaa.com/fracc 877-372-8722

¹Offer subject to approval. As of 12/1/13, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.9% to 25.9%, depending on your credit history and other factors and will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances ($200 maximum on each balance transfer and each convenience check) and 7% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. Please contact us for the most current information. If based on your credit history and other factors you qualify for a credit limit under $5,000, you will receive a Platinum Card with the same rates and fees.²Earn 1 point for every $1 in credit card purchases. Other restrictions apply. Reward points terminate if account is closed or delinquent or program ends. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. FRA receives financial support from this sponsorship.

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.

Credit cards issued by USAA Savings Bank and administered by USAA Federal Savings Bank, both Member FDIC. © 2014 USAA. 145573-0114
“What Congress Gives, Congress Can Take Away”

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNED THE “Bipartisan Budget Agreement Act” (H.J. Res 59) in late December, which includes a provision to reduce the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees under age 62 by one percent. This reduction in earned benefits will be implemented with COLA increases that will take effect on December 1, 2015, (reflected in January 2016 payments) and impacts all current and future military retirees, with the exception of REDUX retirees (those who accepted a retention bonus in exchange for reduced retirement benefits), who are excluded from these cuts.

The resolution moved quickly through Congress and, before the final vote in the Senate, FRA’s legislative team, together with staff from other military and veterans’ associations, visited every senator’s office on Capitol Hill urging their opposition to the COLA cuts. Senators Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Roger Wicker (Miss.), and Kelly Ayotte (N.H.) actively opposed the provision, with Ayotte appearing on Fox News Channel to explain her opposition to the COLA cut before a panel of journalists. Special thanks also to PRPNEng John Kotheimer (Branch 338, Nashua, N.H.), who represented FRA at a press conference in New Hampshire with Senator Ayotte. FRA also participated in a press conference with the three senators, urging the president not to sign the measure after the Senate passed it.

FRA echoes these advocates’ sentiments that this is only the first battle and not the end of the war. These senators vowed their efforts to reverse these cuts before they take effect in 2016 and FRA will work with them and other legislators to repeal this provision BEFORE it takes effect.

Every shipmate should be outraged that members of the House and Senate, as well as the President, would renege on a long-standing commitment made to our current and future military retirees and their families. For years, FRA has been sounding the alarm that “What Congress gives, Congress can take away.” FRA members have made their voices heard on Capitol Hill, sending more than 14,000 messages via FRAs online Action Center to lawmakers on this issue alone. Shipmates are encouraged to communicate their concerns about this and other legislative challenges at action.fra.org/action-center/TODAY!

As pressure builds to cut federal spending, threats to military and veterans benefits will not go away. Shipmates can stay informed about legislative developments by subscribing to FRA Newsbytes, our free, weekly e-mail update. (To subscribe, e-mail newsbytes@fra.org with “Subscribe” in the subject line and your name and address in the body. If you are a member of FRA, please include your member number, as well.)

We also encourage shipmates to take an active role in the legislative process by visiting the FRA Action Center regularly (at www.fra.org). Shipmates can see how their representative and senators voted by going to the Action Center and scrolling down to and clicking on “Bills of Interest.” This important FRA tool also allows users to easily share their concerns with their elected officials via e-mail.

Thanks for using Action Center in 2013

During 2013, shipmates advanced the Association’s legislative agenda by sending more than 58,000 advocacy messages to lawmakers. If usage continues at this rate, we could exceed the 112,000 messages sent during the two-year session of the 112th Congress (2011–2012).

Membership involvement with the Association’s advocacy efforts complements the work of the FRA Legislative Team and strengthens our collective voice on Capitol Hill.
Agent Orange Report Released

FRA National Executive Director Tom Snee and John Davis, FRA’s Director of Legislative Programs, recently attended a briefing at the Institute of Medicine to discuss a recently released report on the health effects from exposure to herbicides used during military operations in Vietnam. The National Academy of Sciences study, mandated by the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-4) and the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-103), provides “limited or suggestive” evidence that some Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange herbicide have a higher incidence of stroke after age 70. The report also notes that potentially adverse health effects in offspring of Vietnam veterans is a high priority for these veterans, but is a very elusive outcome to establish or refute.

FRA supports the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act” (H.R. 543), sponsored by Rep. Chris Gibson (N.Y.), that clarifies a presumption for filing disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. FRA believes Congress should recognize that Navy and other service members who served off shore during the conflict (so-called “blue water” veterans) were exposed to the herbicide and authorize presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with this exposure. Members are urged to use the Action Center (under the Advocacy tab at www.fra.org) to ask their representative to support this important legislation.

The Association is also supporting legislation (H.R. 2189), sponsored by House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (Fla.), designed to help the VA accomplish its goal of eliminating its backlog of unresolved disability claims by 2015. The bill also establishes a commission to study the claims backlog and directs the Joint Services Record Center (JSRC) to do a comprehensive search to determine which ships’ crews are eligible under current law for presumptive coverage for exposure to Agent Orange. The legislation, which incorporates provisions from a number of other measures, has passed the House and is now being considered by the Senate. Shipmates are also encouraged to ask their senators to support this bill by using the FRA Action Center at www.fra.org.

HVAC Reviews VA Complex Disability Claims Process

The House Veterans Affairs’ Subcommittee on Disability Assistance recently held a hearing examining the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) ability to process complex disability benefits compensation claims. While the VA has made progress in reducing its disability claims backlog over the last several months, concerns remain regarding the department’s ability to process complex claims, which can involve multiple medical issues (including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress, military sexual trauma) and special monthly compensation, with consistent quality and efficiency.

Over the past four years, VA Inspector General (IG) reports have focused on concerns regarding the VA’s ability to process these complex claims. For example, of 19 regional offices, more than half saw a decrease in processing accuracy of traumatic brain injury (TBI) claims. When the IG looked at post-traumatic stress (PTS) claims, half of the offices it inspected could not process 50 percent of the claims correctly upon second inspection. FRA is troubled by these reports and believes that the cost of defending the nation includes treating the nation’s wounded warriors in a timely and efficient manner, and welcomes the subcommittee’s oversight hearings on this issue.

NDAA Signed into Law

President Obama signed into law a condensed version of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, H.R. 3304). The legislation was pared down to accelerate passage before the end of 2013. Provisions of the bill include:

- Rejecting new and increased TRICARE fees;
- Authorizing a one-time offer to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who live outside a Prime Service Area (PSA) to keep their current health care coverage;
- Authorizing a one-percent annual active duty/Reserve pay increase;
- Extending special pays and bonuses that would have otherwise expired on Jan. 1, 2014;
- Including new provisions that protect victims of alleged sexual assault;
- Requiring DoD and VA to have seamless electronic health care data by Oct. 1, 2016;
- Providing for additional Impact Aid for schools with large military populations; and
- Authorizing veterans and service members not in uniform the option to salute during the Pledge of Allegiance.

FRA’s Legislative Team will continue its efforts to advance FRA-supported provisions that were dropped from the NDAA due to a lack of time.

Online Survey

Visit www.fra.org/survey to share your views on what military and veterans’ benefits are most important to you. Your input strengthens FRA’s voice on Capitol Hill and allows us to better represent you!!
ON & OFF CAPITOL HILL

ACTIVE DUTY/RESERVE ISSUES

Expedited Airport Security Screening Expanded for Service Members

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) recently announced an expansion of expedited screening benefits to all U.S. Armed Forces service members, including those serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. As a result of the agreement, these individuals are now able to enjoy the benefits of the program at the 100 participating airports across the country.

Previously, members of the Armed Forces could utilize expedited security screening at 10 domestic airports by presenting their Common Access Card (CAC). The expanded program for the military will be available at 100 airports, allowing service members to keep their footwear on, as well as light outerwear and belts, keep a laptop in its case and their 3-1-1 compliant liquids/gels bag in a carryon bag in select screening lanes.

"TSA joins with the American people in showing its appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our men and women in the Armed Forces," said TSA Deputy Administrator John W. Halinski, a 25-year Marine Corps veteran. "Providing expedited screening while on travel is the least we can do for these courageous men and women."

For more information on the program and a list of participating airports go to: www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck/military-members

New 2014 BAH Rates Available

Defense officials recently announced that Base Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates will increase an average of five percent in 2014. This increase is the largest in five years. To find out the specific increase in your zip code, visit www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm.

Budget Agreement Also Includes Temporary Doc Fix

The budget agreement (see page 8) also provides a three-month extension to the so-called doc fix. Congress needed to pass this provision to prevent a 24-percent cut in Medicare/TRICARE doctor reimbursement rates that were set to take effect on January 1, 2014. FRA is concerned that, if such rate cuts are enacted, physicians will elect to stop seeing Medicare/TRICARE patients.

FRA supports the "Medicare Patient Access and Quality Improvement Act" (H.R. 2810) that would provide a permanent doc fix by repealing the antiquated Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and replacing it with a simplified system of physician payments for Medicare and TRICARE programs. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center/) to ask their U.S. Representative to support this legislation, which is currently pending on the House floor.

So, Just What Does FRA Mean to Me Anyway?

IN LAST MONTH’S ISSUE, we told you that we want to hear about your FRA. The association is 90 years old this year. Our national HQ has tons of archived magazines, photos, and mementos of all kinds—but it’s all just stuff without the shipmates who make it all possible. You represent the real memory of FRA, and your shipmates want you to share it.

So here’s your formal invitation (in case you were waiting for one) to tell us what FRA means to you. Try answering one or more of the questions below or, even better, write on a topic that is completely your own.

• How has belonging to FRA made a difference in your life?
• What long-standing friendships have you made through FRA?
• How have FRA’s legislative victories improved your life?
• Why did you join FRA and what drives you to maintain your membership?

Take some time to think over your response, and (most importantly) type it up or write it down and send it to Will Kohudic, Managing Editor, at williamk@fra.org or 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. All submissions, short or long, are eligible for publication on a special page of the FRA website and the best of the best will be printed in the anniversary issue of FRA Today in November. Questions about submissions can be emailed to williamk@fra.org or fratoday@fra.org.

Last month, we posed the question “how many of your shipmates are older than the Association?” If you guessed over 2,000, you were correct!

February Challenge

Match the slogan to the service in these historic recruitment posters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slogan</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Want YOU for...</td>
<td>Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want Action? Join...</td>
<td>FRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gee, I wish I were a Man—I’d join the…</td>
<td>U.S. Marine Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalty, Protection and Service</td>
<td>U.S. Army</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The FRA Legislative team is Tom Snee, National Executive Director; John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs; Bob Washington, Health Care Advisor and Outreach Manager; and Chris Slawinski, National Veterans Service Officer.
Meet the Beauty in the Beast

Discover this spectacular 6½-carat green treasure from Mount St. Helens!

For almost a hundred years it lay dormant. Silently building strength. At 10,000 feet high, it was truly a sleeping giant. Until May 18, 1980, when the beast awoke with violent force and revealed its greatest secret. Mount St. Helens erupted, sending up a 80,000-foot column of ash and smoke. From that chaos, something beautiful emerged… our spectacular Helenite Necklace.

Helenite is produced from the heated volcanic rock of Mount St. Helens and the brilliant green creation has captured the eye of jewelry designers worldwide. Today you can wear this massive 6½-carat stunner for only $149!

Make your emeralds jealous. Our Helenite Necklace puts the green stone center stage, with a faceted pear-cut set in .925 sterling silver finished in luxurious gold. The explosive origins of the stone are echoed in the flashes of light that radiate as the piece swings gracefully from its 18” luxurious gold-finished sterling silver chain. Today the volcano sits quiet, but this unique piece of American natural history continues to erupt with gorgeous green fire.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed. Bring home the Helenite Necklace and see for yourself. If you are not completely blown away by the rare beauty of this exceptional stone, simply return the necklace within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price.

JEWELRY SPECS:
- 6 ½ ctw Helenite in gold-finished sterling silver setting
- 18” gold-finished sterling silver chain

Limited to the first 2200 orders from this ad only

Helenite Necklace (6 ½ ctw)....................Only $149 +S&$P
Helenite Stud Earrings (1 ctw) .................$129 +S&$P
Helenite Set $278 ...Call-in price only $149 +S&$P
(Set includes necklace and earrings)

Call now to take advantage of this extremely limited offer.
1-800-859-1979

Promotional Code HEL545-04
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer
14101 Southeros Drive W., Dept. HEL545-04, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

"My wife received more compliments on this stone on the first day she wore it than any other piece of jewelry I've ever given her."
- J. from Orlando, FL
Stauer Client
The History of FRA
1919–1929

1919
Chief Yeoman Robert W. White and Chief Gunner’s Mate Carl H. McDonald are the first enlisted personnel to testify before Congress. They present the enlisted perspective on military pay legislation.

1921
Chief Yeoman George Carlin conceives an association dedicated to monitoring all legislation that impacts enlisted personnel. Carlin is considered the father of the FRA.

1923
The Association’s Constitution and Bylaws Committee determined membership eligibility for the new organization. The document stated, “a shipmate is a shipmate, regardless of race, creed or color.”

1924
FRA is chartered on 11 November in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1925
FRA adopts its cardinal principles of “Loyalty, Protection and Service” as its official motto. FRA’s constitution was amended to admit career members of the US Marine Corps into the Association.

1925
The Association holds its first national convention in the place of its birth — Philadelphia.

1927
FRA gains accreditation to represent shipmates in hearings before the Veterans Bureau.
Acid Reflux for Almost 40 Years Now.

before.

purposely avoided a lot of foods.

inhibitors (PPIs) on a long term basis, no matter how spicy. Even if I never could stomach. But now I can eat anything... No foods I would get what I called "Rot Gut". Like something was rotting in my stomach. But now I can eat anything... No matter how spicy. Even if I never could before.

Let me explain…

For the better part of my life, I purposely avoided a lot of foods. Especially ones with even a tiny bit of seasoning. Because if I didn’t, I’d experience a burning sensation through my esophagus— like somebody poured hot lead or battery acid down my throat. Add to that, those disgusting "mini-throw ups" and I was in "indigestion hell".

Doctors put me on all sorts of antacid remedies. But nothing worked. Or if they did, it would only be for a brief period. And then boom! My nightmare would return.

Sometimes, I felt like I was dying. The pain was unbearable and nothing could make it stop.

But then my wife, who occasionally suffered with the same problem; gave me one of her prescription acid blockers. It was a miracle. I felt like I could live again. Because before that, I was just miserable. I wanted to kill myself. But thankfully, it worked, and worked well.

"I was beside myself. What was I gonna do? Keep taking the pills, or suffer with problems that could ultimately be my demise".

I felt great, until about one year ago; when I read an FDA warning that scared the heck out of me. It went something like this…

FDA WARNING! Using proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) on a long term basis, increases your risk of hip, bone and spinal fractures.

That’s a particular concern to me, since many acid blockers are PPI’s. I’ve gone through two back surgeries and bilateral hip replacements. I had to ask myself, could PPI’s have been responsible for my medical woes? After all...

"The Recommended Treatment for Prilosec®, Prevacid® and Other PPI’s is Only 14-DAYS, I Took Them for 14 YEARS!"

I was “between a rock and a hard place”. Stop using the PPIs and I’m a “dead man in the water”. It would be unbearable. I wouldn’t be able to eat anything. I’d have to go on a water diet.

But that FDA warning was scary. I knew I had to stop or else risk developing spinal stenosis. My mother had that. And I watched her die a horrible death. Her spine just fractured. It was the worst death. She didn’t deserve that. And neither do I.

I had to quit. So I stopped taking PPI’s for a day or so. But my indigestion was worse than ever. I would rather take the chance of a spinal fracture than to live like that again. I tried everything. Even started using home remedies like apple cider vinegar. But it just felt like I was pouring even more acid down my throat. Then one day at dinner, a friend of mine said "why don’t you try an aloe drink?" I said ‘aloe drink? Jeez. That doesn’t sound good at all!” The next day he brought me a case of something called AloeCure®, I was skeptical, but I was desperate! So instead of being an ingrate I decided to try it.

And here’s the best part. The next day we had Italian food — my worst enemy. But for the first time in 40 years I didn’t get indigestion without relying on prescription or OTC pills and tablets. Finally, I just didn’t need them anymore!

I was so thrilled; I wrote the AloeCure® company to tell them how amazing their product is. They thanked me, and asked me to tell my story… The story that changed my life. I said “Sure, but only if you send me a hefty supply of AloeCure®. I just can’t live without it.”

"Every time I ate something that didn’t agree with me… I’d get what I called ‘Rot Gut’ — like my stomach was rotting out!”

But don’t believe me. You have to try this stuff for yourself. I recommend AloeCure® to anyone who suffers with the same problem I did. It gives you immediate relief. You’ll be grateful you did. I sure am. It’s the best thing that’s happened to me in a long, long time.

TRY IT 100% RISK-FREE!

The makers of AloeCure® have agreed to send you up to 6 FREE bottles PLUS 2 free bonus gifts with every order— they’re yours to keep no matter what.

That’s enough AloeCure® for 30 days of powerful digestive relief, absolutely FREE! But hurry! This is a special introductory offer, reserved for our readers only.

Call Now, Toll-Free!
1-800-328-8919

63 year old Ralph Burns enjoying a spicy-hot portion of Lobster Fra Diavolo. Just 15 minutes after taking AloeCure®.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING shipmates who chose to become Life Members during the fourth quarter of 2013. If you'd like to become a Life Member, call 1-800-FRA-1924 and speak with one of our Member Services representatives.

### October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sidna L. Simpkins</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>James A. Haynes</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>Robert D.</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>James Caporale</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph P. Wiehl</td>
<td></td>
<td>269</td>
<td>Frank S. Poole</td>
<td>051</td>
<td>Roy F.</td>
<td>Steffey</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>David Clifford</td>
<td>113</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apolinario G. Mercado</td>
<td></td>
<td>171</td>
<td>Norman W. Larson</td>
<td>060</td>
<td>Sidney L.</td>
<td>Ledford</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Michael E. LeCompte</td>
<td>269</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby C. Block</td>
<td>163</td>
<td></td>
<td>William L. O'Brien</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>Jimmy Alexander</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Mark C. Baca</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George P. Wanserski</td>
<td>136</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alfredo Q. Certezia</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Andres Dorame</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Angel C. Villalva</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry J. Greenwood</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert F. Cooper</td>
<td>005</td>
<td>James A.</td>
<td>Peake</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>Calvin Bradley</td>
<td>063</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Davis</td>
<td>022</td>
<td></td>
<td>Norman R. Allison</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>Albert Baker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Paul N. Hanson</td>
<td>289</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac L. Espiritu</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edwin Boudreaux</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>Bradley A.</td>
<td>Spannauer</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Harold L. McBride</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael R. Verville</td>
<td>367</td>
<td></td>
<td>Albert L. Wright</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Milton B.</td>
<td>Hollinger</td>
<td>077</td>
<td>Joseph C. Dangler</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter D. Comstock</td>
<td>281</td>
<td></td>
<td>Charles L. Walden</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>John H.</td>
<td>Leonatti</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>David R. Todd</td>
<td>234</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorden Richau</td>
<td>091</td>
<td></td>
<td>James F. Page</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>Thomas J.</td>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Doyle B. Ross</td>
<td>163</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald G. Moore</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Melvin D. Johnson</td>
<td>060</td>
<td>Joseph A.</td>
<td>Burger</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>John C. Salva</td>
<td>085</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur J. Grimme, Jr.</td>
<td>057</td>
<td></td>
<td>Terry P. Wise</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>Justin D.</td>
<td>Tohal</td>
<td>018</td>
<td>James Bordell</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon R. Jackson</td>
<td>104</td>
<td></td>
<td>Donald J. Townsend</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>William L.</td>
<td>Wilkerson</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>Kevin Barton</td>
<td>339</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis J. Beasley</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loy K. Rainwater</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>James L.</td>
<td>Gill</td>
<td>020</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine L. Frazier</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Glenn B. Atchison</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Anthony Capriglione</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Krzyzanowski</td>
<td>053</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James J. Gordon</td>
<td>070</td>
<td></td>
<td>Douglas Parks</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilfredo Q. Napatang</td>
<td>064</td>
<td></td>
<td>Herbert M. Fenster</td>
<td>089</td>
<td>Jessie L.</td>
<td>Young</td>
<td>060</td>
<td>Anthony B. Miller</td>
<td>293</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Ogo</td>
<td>099</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wayne A. Patterson</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Walter E.</td>
<td>Sult</td>
<td>060</td>
<td>Bruce D. Corb</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry A. Williams</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>William R. Krumm</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Larry D.</td>
<td>Bertelson</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>Anthony J. Petersen</td>
<td>289</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John D. Mathies</td>
<td>101</td>
<td></td>
<td>Terry P. Wise</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>Justin D.</td>
<td>Tohal</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>James V. Blake</td>
<td>091</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felix A. Famolaro</td>
<td>175</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard D. Wilson</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>John J.</td>
<td>Majzun</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>Thomas J. Dunn</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Cunningham, Jr.</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Earl Rich</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Guy H.</td>
<td>Webb</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>Larry J. Boudreaux</td>
<td>367</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert F. Harshman</td>
<td>334</td>
<td></td>
<td>Herald E. Lowry</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>James C.</td>
<td>Sword, Jr.</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>Donald L. Segassie, Sr.</td>
<td>089</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon K. Way</td>
<td>103</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edward W. Smith</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Samuel Y</td>
<td>Kern</td>
<td>099</td>
<td>John L. Hunsaker</td>
<td>050</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney D. Chapman</td>
<td>147</td>
<td></td>
<td>R. C. Stuart</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>David P.</td>
<td>Price</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip R. Fogle</td>
<td>316</td>
<td></td>
<td>Keith L. Totsch</td>
<td>053</td>
<td>Donald A.</td>
<td>Ruppert</td>
<td>284</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James A. Brown</td>
<td>098</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jerome H. Lund</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Gary W.</td>
<td>Gosney</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Richard Romero</td>
<td>022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard E. Haugen</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Horace T. Moody, Jr.</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>William</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Charles G. Gunter</td>
<td>024</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul J. Boudreau</td>
<td>028</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arturo M. Tapia</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>Bill G.</td>
<td>Homrich</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Rodrigo M. Abrenica</td>
<td>309</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horace A. Dees, Jr.</td>
<td>046</td>
<td></td>
<td>John B. Trethewey</td>
<td>017</td>
<td>John E.</td>
<td>Ross</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Roy J. Leferev</td>
<td>101</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen F. Williams</td>
<td>295</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruben Treichel</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Richard W.</td>
<td>Strength</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>Thomas R. DeAvery, Jr.</td>
<td>047</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford M. Magnusen</td>
<td>104</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edward L. Winchell</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>David Forbes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard C. Hallowell</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George B. Westerlund</td>
<td>018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clarence E. Vick</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Charles F.</td>
<td>Gagnon</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Frank W Reinhold Jr.</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry R. Gaddy</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paul F. Grassinger</td>
<td>067</td>
<td>Anthony</td>
<td>Mistretta</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Donald K. Twite</td>
<td>216</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard E. Oswald</td>
<td>245</td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Brookins</td>
<td>093</td>
<td>Kenneth M.</td>
<td>Knight</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Dennis M. Sweeney</td>
<td>276</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James P. Goblet</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
<td>Elmer E. Anderson</td>
<td>029</td>
<td>Kenneth K.</td>
<td>Alleman</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>John McCarthy</td>
<td>070</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara A. Oliveira</td>
<td>061</td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert C. Slayton</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Peter R.</td>
<td>Bergum</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>James R. Hough</td>
<td>040</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Behr</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>William L. Smith</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>John Fairbanks</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Marie T. Stoll</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard M. Brownell</td>
<td>269</td>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenal C. Castro</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Robert W.</td>
<td>Arnold</td>
<td>004</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlo Rudolfo</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>James Callaghan</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Wayne C.</td>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>136</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald R. Swanson</td>
<td>245</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orsare W. Stokes</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>William L.</td>
<td>Hanzel</td>
<td>049</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For over 600 years, silver and gold coins featuring Angels have been treasured by millions. Medieval queens and kings such as Henry the Eighth often bestowed them on worthy subjects. These coveted coins were believed by many to bring good luck, fortune, and even to cure sickness and save lives. Angel coins became precious family heirlooms passed down through generations as a legacy of good fortune.

Napoleon’s Lucky Angel

In times of conflict, Angel coins have been believed to provide safety and protection. Generals issued them to fighter pilots in both WWI and WWII for luck. Ship captains, fishermen, and rescue and police heroes have all proclaimed the Angel’s powers of luck and protection.

Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte is said to have carried an Angel coin in his vest pocket throughout his steady rise to power in France. But on the eve of a great battle in 1815, he reportedly flung his coin arrogantly into a river. The very next day, Napoleon was defeated in the Battle of Waterloo and forced into exile.

World’s First Brilliant Uncirculated Silver Angel

Now, for the first time ever, GovMint.com is releasing a legal tender one ounce Silver Angel struck in 99.9% pure silver in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. The coin’s reverse features a dramatically-sculpted image of St. Michael the Archangel battling a fierce dragon—a classic depiction of the triumph of Good over Evil. The obverse of this British legal tender coin features the regal portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Each 2014 Silver Angel comes with an official government certificate of authenticity, as well as the Silver Angel Collector’s Guide.

Put a lucky Silver Angel in your pocket today!

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours a day

1-888-373-0647

Offer Code NVA151-01

Please mention this code when you call.

Watch a video about the legend and lore of the Silver Angel at www.GovMint.com/silverangelcoin - or scan this code with your smart phone:
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

www.fra.org is a Membership Tool

FRA LAUNCHED ITS NEW website design in October 2013 and new mobile app (for iPhones and iPads) in October 2013. It has a new look on the front page and lots of information on pay, benefits, veterans’ issues and quality-of-life programs. There are many useful features on the website that benefit shipmates by keeping them informed about legislation that affects them, their families and their shipmates. The site also has a wealth of information about Association, branch and regional operations, and allows individual shipmates to update their personal membership record. In one way or another, almost all of the website content and tools can be used to help recruit and retain FRA members. Let’s explore the features and read what other shipmates have to say about the website.

It is a proven fact that shipmates who subscribe to FRA NewsBytes, our free weekly e-mail update, are substantially more likely to retain their Association membership. (You can subscribe by visiting www.fra.org, logging in to your membership record and clicking the “NewsBytes” box under the Member Demographics tab or by e-mailing newsbytes@fra.org.)

Shipmates who take an active role in the legislative process not only strengthen the Association by advancing FRA’s legislative agenda, they also are more likely to maintain their membership. It’s easy to send messages to elected officials using the FRA Action Center (under the Advocacy tab at www.fra.org). More than 112,000 messages were sent to the 112th Congress using the Action Center, which strengthens our collective voice on Capitol Hill.

In addition to providing access to news about FRA and its legislative advocacy work, the latest and archived issues of FRA Today and other news information, FRAs redesigned website provides a variety of recruiting and retention tools. Shipmate Ron Littlejohn, Secretary of Branch 309 (Newark, Del.), uses the website to access the Branch Roster to make corrections or additions to addresses or contact information. He looks up information about items for sale to include the price of flags, reports a death of a shipmate via e-mail, reviews information on FRAs Constitution and Bylaws, Rituals, as well as the Administration Manual. In addition, when the time comes to complete forms for FRAs annual and regional conventions, Shipmate Littlejohn accesses the delegate credential forms and completes them online. He reviews the information about the Americanism and Patriotism Essay Contest to ensure submittal of essays for local, regional and national due dates. Lastly, Shipmate Ron uses the Advanced Search function (in the section for Branch and Regional Officers, under the My FRA tab) to send e-mail reminders to branch members about meetings and special events.

Shipmates Robert Oliveira and Frank Gates, Branch 293 (Elizabeth City, N.C.) President and Chairman of the branch’s Membership Committee, respectively, also use the website’s section for Branch and Regional Officers frequently to communicate branch information to current and prospective members. They access current forms and information to manage branch business. They use the Branch Roster information to check the membership status and, if a member is past due on payments of membership dues, contact is made to discuss membership.

Branch 24 (Annapolis, Md.) Secretary Valerie Reed is a master at using the Advanced Search function to communicate with the more than 1,900 members on the branch roster via e-mail. Even though members can login to their own account and make changes to contact information, Shipmate Reed will make the updates to assist members who don’t have Internet access or simply need assistance. Shipmate Reed prefers to access a digital branch roster on the website, rather than print a lengthy paper document. Another advantage is that the online roster includes up-to-date changes made to members’ records.

Branch 70 (Poway, Calif.) Secretary Gerald Miranda is a novice when it comes to using the website. However, he connects to it daily to get contact information of branch members and uses it as a reference source on position responsibilities, FRA Rituals and to view previous issues of FRA Today. Shipmate Miranda says he tries to use the website to find out more information about the Association and what the branches are doing. He recommends posting the travel schedule of national officers to local branches or state or national ceremonies, so shipmates can attend to support the FRA at these events. Good idea, Shipmate Gerald!

When you have the opportunity, please visit www.fra.org and login using your unique membership number (9 digit) and the password. Directions are on the login screen.

If you need assistance in accessing the website, please call FRAs Member Services at 1-800-FRA-1924 (ext.1).

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.
Show Your Allegiance to the Brotherhood of Navy Freedom Fighters

Wrap yourself in Navy pride and casual comfort with our “U.S. Navy Freedom Fighter” Men’s Hoodie. Crafted in easy-care Navy blue cotton blend knit, with brushed fleece on the inside, it showcases a back patch featuring a stirring cameo of a spirited eagle and American flag along with the Navy emblem of eagle, flag and crossed anchors. The front features “NAVY” embroidered on the chest, and the left sleeve bears an American flag patch. There’s plenty of design detail throughout, like contrasting gray lining in the hood, generous front pockets, knit cuffs and hem with gray stripes, a full front zipper with metallic Navy emblem zipper pull, and chrome-look metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

Affordably priced... with satisfaction guaranteed

Available in 4 sizes, this “look sharp” hoodie is a great value at just $89.95*, payable in 4 convenient installments of $22.48 each, and backed by our 30-day money-back guarantee. To reserve yours, send no money now; just return the Reservation Application. This is a limited-time offer, so order today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/navyhoodie

Neither the U.S. Navy nor any other component of the Department of Defense has approved, endorsed or authorized this product.
Lighter than Air
In the early days of World War II (WWII), Axis powers began to build up their submarine presence in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea. By the early part of 1942, enemy submarines were attacking convoys of Allied ships with relative impunity and the U.S. was losing a shocking number of ships.

To counter this assault, the U.S. Navy began employing lighter-than-air (LTA) craft to identify and destroy these submarines. Non-rigid airships began escorting convoys and, coupled with the Allies’ success in breaking Germany’s Enigma code, U-boat packs could be avoided altogether or Allied ships could be rerouted around enemy positions.
LTA Ships Proved Their Worth in WWII

The K-class airships became the workhorse of the LTA fleet and their ability to hover and operate at low speeds and low altitudes proved highly effective in detecting enemy submarines. They could operate at night, in the fog and in a variety of other weather conditions, without landing or refueling, for more than 38 hours. They had a range of more than 2,200 miles and it wasn’t long before these blimps proved their worth as anti-submarine warfare (ASW) platforms.

According to Don Kaiser, in his “K-Ships Across the Atlantic” article (Naval Aviation News, Spring 2011), prior to the increased use of blimp escorts, more than 60 merchant vessels were sunk by German U-boats off the east coast of the U.S. in 1942. As more blimps came into service and more convoys had escorts, that number dropped significantly — to only three losses in 1943, none in 1944 and only two in 1945. “These now largely forgotten naval aircraft helped win the war in the Atlantic, and their achievements are an important part of the story of the first century of Naval Aviation.”

Shipmate Al Grappone (Branch 10, San Leandro, Calif.) was an Airship Rigger in a variety of LTA squadrons during the war, often deploying to far-flung locations to establish new airship squadrons. “In 1943 and 1944, they called the area near Cuba, Trinidad, French and British Guyana ‘Torpedo Junction.’ Enemy subs patrolled that area and were really playing havoc on our convoys, so airships were assigned to accompany those convoys and report the location of those subs when spotted. An average patrol mission might last 12 to 18 hours. My longest flight was 27 hours.

“We would escort convoys as far as we could and then we’d hand the convoy over to a blimp based closer to the scene,” explains Shipmate “Wild Bill” Allen (Branch 307, Gulfport, Miss.), who was a radioman aboard LTA craft during WWII. “Our missions varied in time and distance, depending on the wind. Weather conditions were always a factor, but wind was the biggest one.”

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, the Navy had only six K-class airships, which formed the nucleus of the U.S. Navy’s first airship squadron, ZP-12, at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, N.J. Several Goodyear advertising blimps and a few former Army airships were commandeered to form the first West Coast squadron, ZP-32, at Moffett Field, Calif. The Navy’s LTA fleet was small, but with stations located up and down both coasts, it rapidly proved its worth. In March of 1942, a surfacing German U-boat (U-94) was attacked by an airship in the first ASW action on the American coast, forcing the submarine to retreat.

K-class non-rigid airships were built for the U.S. Navy by the Goodyear Aircraft Company in Akron, Ohio. Before and during WWII, 135 K-class blimps were built, configured for patrol and anti-submarine operations. Modeled after the company’s L-class advertising and passenger blimps, K-2 was flown as the prototype for future airships. With an envelope capacity of 404,000 cubic feet of helium, it was the largest of any Navy blimps up to that time. In October 1940, Goodyear was contracted to build six airships (K-3 through K-8) that were designed for patrol and escort duties. The lot was delivered to the Navy in late 1941/early 1942 at a cost of $325,000 per airship. More orders followed, and by the time K-9 through K-13 were rolled out, the envelope size had increased to 416,000 cubic feet. Later blimps would hold 425,000 cubic feet of helium.

By June of 1942, Congress had authorized the purchase of “200 airships of any type,” but materials for their production weren’t the highest priority and the fabrication process was slow. Eventually 10 major airship bases were built along both U.S. coasts. Enormous new hangars were built at existing bases, as well as at sites in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, Oregon and California. As new squadrons were activated, new electronics were added to facilitate submarine identification and destruction.

K-Ship Specs

As a non-rigid airship, the K-class blimps consisted of an enormous envelope that could be inflated with a lighter-than-air gas — predominantly helium — to lift the massive vehicle into the air. The helium bladders of later K-ships were more than 250 feet long and more than 57 feet in diameter. The blimp was operated from a 40-foot-long control car, or gondola, that was suspended below the “bag,” which also carried communication and detection instrumentation. The blimp was powered by two radial, air-cooled engines,
SHOES THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE... GUARANTEED!

The Ultimate Shock Absorbing Footwear
As featured in hundreds of magazines, on radio and TV nationwide, Gravity Defyer® shoes are changing lives every day. They have become a comfort phenomenon, and are being used and recommended by professionals in hospitals, the food service industry, board rooms across the country and more.

A Decade of Science in Every Pair
The patented VersoShock® system was developed by Impact Research Technology and is found exclusively in Gravity Defyer footwear. It absorbs harmful impact relieving discomfort from every step before returning energy that propels you forward. Stay more active on your feet and experience unparalleled comfort and performance.

Feel Weightless
Standing, walking, and running are easier as the VersoShock® system’s energy return makes you feel lighter, like you’re walking on clouds.

“I decided to fulfill a life’s dream and go to China... without my Gravity Defyer® [shoes] this would have been impossible.” – Eleanor W

“After ordering and wearing your Gravity Defyer® [shoes], I have renewed faith that I will be able to continue my passion for senior softball. Thank you.” – Ron B

“I work in a restaurant. Finally found the shoes that don’t kill my legs and feet...Gravity Defyer® shoes are awesome!” – Diana B

G-Defy Benefits
• Absorb harmful impact
• Stay comfortable & active
• Support & protect your body
• Stand & walk with greater ease

G-DEFY EXTORA II

Calf Skin Leather Upper. Breathable & durable.

Absorbs Shock
on Impact

Energy Return
Propels You

Try a pair FREE for 30 days!
PLUS
FREE SHIPPING
COUPON CODE: MM4BFT2
Call 1 (800) 429-0039
GravityDefyer.com/MM4BFT2

Once you put on your first pair, you won’t ever want to take them off! We guarantee that they will change your life, or simply return them and pay nothing.

Free Returns • Free Exchanges

Gravity Defyer
ADVANCED FOOTWEAR TECHNOLOGY

Accommodates Orthotic Inserts

VS2W VersoShock® Trampoline Sole
Smart Memory springs combined with elastic polymers

AVS³ Ventilation System
Cools the foot and circulates air

Reactors Gel
Stainless foot bed

 Nathaniel D. May, Ph.D.
Pioneer of Footwear Technology

SHOCK ABSORPTION STUDY HPW Biomechanics, 2012
Shock absorption: Measurement of maximum pressure (KPa).
Energy return: Measurement of energy returned (Joules).

*Offer valid for new customers only. Deferred billing for 30 days from the date shipped and is an option selection during checkout. Credit card authorization required. See website for details.
The mooring system for K-ships consisted of a 42-foot triangular mast that could be towed by a tractor. For advance bases, a stick mast was used and a large ground crew was needed to land and moor the blimp. A ground crewman would use the shorter lines, which were always hanging below the blimp, to attach the airship to the mast. Once moored to the mast, the blimp would swing free and head into the wind like a weather vane.

“Being the mastman was one of my favorite jobs,” grins Grappone. “I’d volunteer for mast duty as often as I could. A tractor would pull the mooring masts to an open field and the mastman would stand on a platform at the top, anchored with a safety harness. It was his job to guide the airship in and lock the nose cone into the mast. The mast had a winch on it that would pull the airship in to its mooring. There were several pins that held it in place and the whole process was reversed to launch it.”

When airships were tethered outside, they were manned 24/7 so that the air pressure inside the envelope could be monitored to prevent the bag from collapsing. “If the pressure dropped, we had a compressor to add more air or helium. I’ve seen bags get wrinkled, but I never saw one collapse. If a bag had a leak or tear, we’d have to take it in to a hangar to repair it and replace the helium.”

Trained to Do a Little Bit of Everything

Both Grappone and Allen trained at LTA School in Lakehurst, N.J., where they learned the basics of lighter-than-air flight and operations.

“I went to Lakehurst, N.J. in January of 1943, where we learned about air dynamics, statics and how the blimps were structured. We also learned to operate the radios and the Magnetic Anomaly Detection (MAD) equipment that was really integral to our work during the War,” recalls Allen.

“We learned the same stuff as airplane pilots: navigation, weather, physics, radar, radio, operations, etc. When the other cadets [student pilots] would be out taking flying lessons, we were in the hangar practicing how to inflate and rig the airships, which would take a couple of days,” says Grappone. “We had to unpack it from a 15 x 20-foot crate, stretch it out on the huge hangar deck and then put a net over the bag. We would then attach hundreds of sandbags to the net. As we filled the bag with helium, it would begin to rise and we’d have to lower the sand bags. Once it was inflated, we added the control surfaces, the car and the controls. We’d then fuel it up and put it through test operations.”

Trained and rated as an Aviation Metalsmith, Grappone flew as an Airship Rigger. “It was the rigger’s job to participate in
We were there when you landed on the northern coast of France.
We were there when you returned to the Philippine shore.
We were there when you fought in Korea and Vietnam.
We were there when you rolled across the deserts of Iraq.
We were there then. We will always be there.

Serving the insurance needs of Enlisted Military for over 73 years.

1-800-MILITARY (1-800-645-4827)
AUTO * HOME * RENTERS * MOTORCYCLE * BOAT
assembling the airship, setting up all the controls, putting on the rudders and elevators, adding the lines and nose cone and hanging the car. If there was any metal work to be done, in the construction or as a repair, we did that, too. If there was a hole in the bag or damage to an elevator or rudder, or a problem with the gondola, we took care of it. We dealt with everything except the engines and the electronics. And even then, we also learned to monitor the radar. Because our missions were so long, airship crews were trained to rotate among the different positions on board. My favorite was to relieve the pilots and actually fly the airship.”

As an airship rigger, Grappone was often tasked to repair tears or leaks in the bag. “Everyone compared us to the Hindenburg [which was consumed by flames in 1937], but that was a dirigible, with an internal structure and was filled with hydrogen, which is highly flammable. Helium isn’t flammable and it’s also not breathable. If we had to go inside the bag to do repairs, we had to take auxiliary air with us,” he reminisces. “Of course, we did have a little fun inhaling small gasps of it, which made us talk like Donald Duck!”

### Anti-Submarine warfare

Locating subs was the first step in being able to defend Allied ships against them. In the early days of WWII, aerial anti-submarine warfare relied upon visual lookouts to detect the subs. The earliest K-ships were not outfitted with electronic submarine detection equipment, but advancements in radar and other technologies would prove some of the most important components in the fight against enemy U-boats.

“The K-ships were equipped with the day’s most advanced technology,” says Allen. “Radar was in its infancy and Magnetic Anomaly Detection (MAD) was experimental at the time.”

Submarines (and other ferromagnetic materials) create a detectable disturbance in the earth’s magnetic field and MAD equipment could detect those disturbances, or anomalies. “MAD was top secret in 1943 and only something in the air was able to detect the anomalies. And it was only effective when employed in a slow-moving aircraft,” continues Allen. “If MAD showed something under the surface, it was our job to determine whether it was a sub or the wreckage of a sunken ship. We’d drop a smoke bomb to indicate where we found the anomaly. We’d be traveling at about 50 knots and we’d come around again and see if the site of the anomaly changed. Obviously, a sunken ship wouldn’t move, but with MAD, we could track and follow a sub’s course and mark it for surface Navy to come in and do their work with depth charges. As the technology improved, MAD was able to be even more sensitive at higher speeds and was later used on PBYs [fixed wing aircraft] that traveled at twice the speed of airships.”

Underwater microphones, or sonobuoys, were used in conjunction with MAD. Sonobuoys had been developed in 1941, but hadn’t really been deemed all that useful for military operations. But because MAD often picked up old wrecks, the use of sonobuoys was reinvigorated to validate and corroborate MAD contacts. “We used them to pick up screw [propeller] sounds,” clarified Allen.

An aircrew of 10 normally operated the K-ships, including a command pilot, two co-pilots, a navigator, an airship rigger, an ordnanceman, two mechanics and two radiomen. Allen was one of two radiomen aboard and it was his job “to monitor the radar and MAD for eight hours or more at a stretch, in addition to operating the radio. The radar operator had to keep his eyes on the screen at all times, which was tiring, so we’d swap positions.”

“We carried four 350-pound depth bombs and, although our crew never dropped them, we were all trained in arming them and opening the bomb bay doors. We were all also qualified on a 50-caliber Browning machine gun that was mounted in the car, to defend ourselves if the enemy sub surfaced and tried to shoot us out of the air,” says Grappone. “The pilots had sidearms and we also had rifles, in case we went down.”

“Back then, only the newer submarines had snorkels to provide fresh air to the crew,” adds Allen. “Most of the ones used in ‘42 and ‘43 didn’t have them and, as a result, they couldn’t stay submerged for too long. Even if they were being attacked, they eventually had to surface — either to fight or surrender.

“The subs we’d detect would be deep underwater, too deep for us to use our depth charges, which would detonate at a depth of 50 feet,” Allen continues. “So we’d get on the air, describe the sub’s location and request air or surface support. It was interesting and exciting.”
You have watched as they stood strong, always ready to make the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Now, show this person of courage and commitment how much you care, and send along a special blessing, with the “Bless This Soldier” Personalized Dog Tag Pendant.

Crafted in soldier-tough stainless steel, this custom-crafted pendant features a standard military-issue dog tag design. On the front is a relief image of an angel, her wings unfolded and arms extended, watching over a kneeling soldier as if in answer to his prayer. Adding to the meaning is the sentiment “BLESS AND PROTECT THIS SOLDIER”, etched on the reverse side. Plus, you can include the name of your soldier at no additional cost!

A Remarkable Value... Available for a Limited Time
Complete with a 24” stainless steel chain, jewelry pouch, gift box and Certificate of Authenticity, this pendant is a remarkable value at just $79*, payable in 4 easy installments of $19.75. To reserve yours, backed by our 120-day guarantee, send no money now... just mail in the Priority Reservation. But don’t delay... this is a limited-time offer!

LIMITED-TIME OFFER
Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Respond as soon as possible to reserve your “Bless This Soldier” Dog Tag Pendant. Please print name (maximum 10 characters): ____________________________

Signature

PRIORITY RESERVATION SEND NO MONEY NOW

YES. Please reserve the “Bless This Soldier” Dog Tag Pendant for me, as described in this announcement, personalized with the name indicated below.

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

City State Zip

E-Mail (Optional)

©2015 BGE 01-17139-001-EI

www.bradfordexchange.com/17139
Additional Missions

In addition to escorting convoys and helping Allied ships avoid enemy submarines, airships were also used in mine-spotting and search-and-rescue (SAR) missions. The Germans had mined many French and Italian ports that were essential for supplying Allied forces, and blimps were able to effectively identify mines and guide minesweepers safely to port. The blimps’ ability to hover at low altitudes also made them a valuable tool for extracting downed pilots and crew, particularly in areas of dense vegetation where planes couldn’t land.

Although he was never involved in a rescue mission, Shipmate Grappone trained in SAR operations and constructed harnesses for lifting downed pilots. “If a plane crashed in the jungle, airships were used to lift the pilots out. We lift them aboard by lowering sandbags that would counter the pilot’s weight. During my tour in Brazil, I participated in a lot of searches, but we never made any rescues.”

Fond Memories

Both Grappone and Allen have many fond memories of their days in LTA service.

Grappone grew up wanting to fly, having been bitten by the aviation bug during his high school years. “I used to watch the airmail biplanes land in Oil City, Pa., and they’d let me move the chalks and things like that. I was just fascinated by it. When I joined the Navy in June of 1941, I told the recruiter I wanted to fly and ended up at metal-smith school in Jacksonville, Fla. Because I graduated in the top third of the class, I had my pick of assignments. I chose Lakehurst, N.J., mostly because it was near my mother, but I was thrilled to end up in airships.”

Allen, now 88 years old, became interested in flying after he entered the Navy as a “Houston Volunteer” in May of 1942. “There was a campaign that encouraged Texans to join the Navy as a tribute to the USS Houston, a heavy cruiser that was sunk in the early days of World War II. I was one of 1,600 men who volunteered and they gave us all keys to the city! After boot camp, I went to school to become a radioman. I was doing well — could copy 22 words per minute — but I wanted to fly. There was a notice on the bulletin board asking for volunteers to join a new program flying blimps. I was in a volunteering mood in those days, so I signed up,” he chuckles.

Shipmate Grappone recently celebrated his 91st birthday, but recalls his LTA days clearly and with warmth. “Riggers were also responsible for the cooking onboard,” he remembers. “The galley would provide us with a big thermos of coffee and the food items, which we cooked on a hot plate. We cooked steaks, eggs in the hole ... and we ate a lot of canned turkey! We had a sink and it wasn’t uncommon to have three meals aboard and snacks.”
**Enjoy A Bath Again… Safely and Affordably**

The Jacuzzi® Walk-In tub is luxurious, feature-packed and affordable

There is nothing like the simple pleasure of taking a warm bath. The cares of the day seem to fade away, along with the aches and pains of everyday life. Unfortunately for many aging Americans with mobility issues, slipping into a bath can result in slipping onto the floor. The fear of falling has made the simple act of bathing and its therapeutic benefits a thing of the past until now. Jacuzzi®, the company that perfected hydrotherapy, has created a walk-in tub that offers more than just safe bathing, peace-of-mind and independence, it can actually help you feel better.

Unlike traditional bathtubs, this Walk-In Tub features a leak-proof door that allows you to simply step into the tub rather than stepping precariously over the side. It features a state-of-the-art acrylic surface, a raised seat, and the controls are within easy reach. No other Walk-In Tub features the patented Jacuzzi® PointPro® jet system. These high-volume, low-pressure pumps feature a perfectly balanced water to air ratio to massage thoroughly yet gently. Some swirl, some spiral, some deliver large volumes of water and others target specific pressure points. They are all arranged in precise locations designed to deliver a therapeutic massage, yet they are fully adjustable so that your bathing experience can be completely unique.

Why spend another day wishing you could enjoy the luxury and pain-relieving benefits of a safe, comfortable bath? Call now and you’ll get an unsurpassed limited lifetime warranty. Knowledgeable product experts are standing by to help you learn more about this product. Call Today!

**What To Look For in a Walk-In Tub:**

Five major considerations to help make an informed decision before buying a Walk-In Tub:

- **Quality** - A walk-in tub is a major investment. You want to find a quality tub that will last for decades. Look for one that’s 100% leak-proof, mold-resistant, full metal frame construction and one that’s American made.

- **Warranty** - Ask for a lifetime “no leak guarantee.” The best tubs offer a lifetime warranty on both the tub and the operating system.

- **Pain Relieving Therapy** - Find a tub that has both water and air jet therapy to soak away your aches and pains preferably with a perfectly balanced water to air mix. This tub is the first to offer a specialized foot massage experience. Its unique spinning motion provides optimal therapy to feet and legs. Best of all, you get it at no additional charge.

- **Comfort** - Insist on ergonomic design, easy-to-reach controls.

- **Endorsements** - Only consider tubs that are ETL or UL listed. Also look for a tub tested to IAPMO standards and that’s USPC Certified.

**SEE THE JACUZZI® DIFFERENCE**

Laboratory tests clearly show how Jacuzzi® jets outperform other manufacturers’ jet systems, producing a deeper and wider plume of revitalizing bubbles. You get the best technology for an affordable price!

**New & Improved Jacuzzi® Walk-In Tub**

For information call: **1-888-959-8544**

Call now Toll-Free and mention your special promotion code 51148. Third-party financing available with approved credit. Aging in the Home Remodelers Inc. is neither a broker nor a lender. Not available in Hawaii and Alaska.

We are proud to support Operation Homefront in their efforts to assist members of the military and their families.

© 2014 Aging in the Home Remodelers Inc.
Pride in Service
Shipmates Allen and Grappone also recall their LTA service with great pride … and understandably so. According to the Naval Airship Association’s website (www.naval-airship.org), “WWII established the record of the airship as the submarine’s only natural enemy” and only one airship, K-74, was shot down as it damaged a surfaced German U-boat in 1943, “after which the sub turned for home.” Although there’s no official record of a blimp sinking an enemy submarine, more than 80,000 ships were escorted during WWII without the loss of a single ship. Allied ships were undoubtedly safer when they had an airship escort.

“We all had a job to do and I felt like I was doing my part,” says Grappone. “We’d have some really long flights, but I knew I couldn’t fall asleep because I had to be the lookout or cook breakfast for the crew. We helped win the submarine war in the Atlantic.”

“There’s really no way to measure how many ships weren’t sunk because of our work on airships,” agrees Allen. “No ship was ever sunk if they had a blimp escort. I don’t like the term ‘gasbag,’” because it seems sort of disrespectful to me. I usually just laugh it off, but I know we did our job well.”

“‘Gasbag’ isn’t offensive to me. It’s usually a reference made by folks in the HTA [heavier than air], prop-driven community, but I know how indispensable we were during the war,” says Grappone. “We didn’t get a lot of press, but we saved a lot of lives by preventing torpedo attacks on our ships. I loved it.”

Airships Today
Following WWII, non-rigid airships continued to provide persistent, reliable platforms for use in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations and to support Early Warning programs. Advances in technology included stern thrusters that allowed for better pitch and yaw control and reduced the number of ground crewman required to launch and land the airship. More recent systems demonstrate vectoring engines that allow the pilot to control the whole mooring maneuver. Still other advancements employ a system that permits the pilot to fly the airship to an automatic mooring system unaided.

The Navy’s last Cold War-era airships were decommissioned in October of 1961 — just a few months after Shipmate Grappone retired from the Navy. But after a 50-year absence, the Navy commissioned its first operational airship in October of 2011. The MX-3A was commissioned to serve as a scientific test platform for surveillance cameras, radars and other sensors. Capable of flying at altitudes of up to 10,000 feet and cruising at 50 miles per hour, the MZ-3A can remain aloft and nearly stationary for more than 12 hours at a time, offering a very stable platform that is essentially a flying laboratory.

Currently stationed at Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md., the MZ-3A is operated under the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and Scientific Development Squadron One (VXS-1). In addition to its testing duties, it has also been tasked with aerial mapping in the Washington, D.C., area.
Reunions are a Great Recruiting Opportunity!

IF YOU'RE HOSTING OR attending a reunion, please consider how many prospective FRA members will also be there! FRA has published a prospective member brochure with an information request form and a “thank you for your service” reference card included. You can easily talk through benefits of membership with the prospect using this card and offer NewsBytes or one of the FRA guides, provided by filling out the information card. For their convenience, they can keep the list of benefits on one side and a handy list of information sources on the other.

These work great for one-to-one conversations with someone you know is eligible for membership (at least one day of enlisted service in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard). You can request these brochures or other items for your reunion from Bob Washington, Outreach Manager, at 1-800-372-1924, ext. 113, or bobw@fra.org. Reunions are great places to recruit — if you’d like additional information or ideas for your reunion, please contact Bob!
AKCS Viola Mae Sharp  
She was a shipmate who served at NAS Jacksonville, Fla., Supply Dept. during 1963. During that period we won an “O” ACOP Award on Julian Date 079. She retired in 1983. Please contact AKCM SKCM Daniel Lawson at 904-629-6002 or email dlawson3740@att.net

Robert J. Shute and wife, Gail  
He was an AW E9. Last known address was a care center for retired military in St. Augustine, Fla. We were plane crew on FAW-11 staff in JAX NAS, Fla., 1954–55. Please send info for Bob or the St. Augustine care center to R.R. Ballard, 7950 Boca Ciega Dr., Apt. 5, St. Pete Beach, Fla., 33706.

Jim Belknap and wife, Donna  
He was a Seabee Builder, stationed at Sidi Yahia, Morocco, 1972–1974. We lost touch and I’d like to reconnect. Please contact Bill Pegues at zimac88@att.net

Yeomen Caldwell and Lewis  
Both served on the staff to VADM Glynn R. Donoho, Fleet Activities Command (FAC), 1963–64. I was VADM Donaho’s personal driver. Please contact Bob McFadden at remcf@earthlink.net

SN Charles Ganim, Qtrs K, Arlington, VA 1963-64, CNO Motor Pool  
Tom Welch PO2, USS Shenandoah AD26, 1965-66 Machine Accountant 2nd Class. Please contact Bob McFadden at remcf@earthlink.net

USS Oriskany Cruise Book  
Looking for the last cruise book from the USS Oriskany (1975–1976). Will pay shipping/ mailing costs. Please contact Joan Reed at joanpunky1@tds.net or 763-213-7082.

Billy Edwards REW, S1/C AMM  
Served with VPB197, NAAS Camp Kearney, Calif., in Sept. 1945; VPB200, NAS Kaneohe Bay Hawaii, Oct. 1945; VPB106, Palawan & Samar P.I., Dec. 1945–Apr. 1946. Last known address was JTO-1, NAAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla., Sep. 1949–Jul. 1951 as AD3/2. Subject or any surviving immediate family member, please contact Navdad1930@yahoo.com or 770-426-6713.

Legacy Gifts Benefit Your Family and Your Shipmates

FRA’S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY EFFORTS will continue to protect the pay, benefits, and quality of life for Sea Service personnel and their families for generations to come. We need your support to continue our important work. When you include FRA in your planned giving, you create a lasting tribute to the principles of Loyalty, Protection and Service, and help provide essential resources that will support our vital work well into the future.

Shipmates can create a living testament to their fellow shipmates through a bequest in their will or they may choose to designate FRA as the beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. FRA spends 85 cents of every dollar given to provide direct service to its members with a minimum spent on fundraising and overhead, a ratio that few other organizations can match. Donors can be assured their legacy and other donations are honored in return with good stewardship and respect.

Those who elect to support FRA through legacy giving may specify how they wish their gift to be used. Donations may be directed toward FRA’s Disaster Relief Fund or Education Foundation, or monies may be designated to support our legislative advocacy work to benefit of shipmates and their families.

To specify a legacy gift to FRA, you can designate FRA or the FRA Education Foundation in your will or as a beneficiary on your life insurance or investments. Requirements may vary depending on your location, so be sure to consult with a financial advisor when creating or making changes to these important documents.

What you give to loved ones and the causes you champion is a means of expressing your hopes and dreams for the future and is part of your enduring legacy. Please consider making a lasting legacy with a gift to the FRA.
“My friends all hate their cell phones… I love mine!” Here’s why.

Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to Jitterbug.

“Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine”
Not Jitterbug®, it features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has an oversized display so you can actually see it.

“I had to get my son to program it”
Your Jitterbug set-up process is simple. We’ll even pre-program it with your favorite numbers.

“I tried my sister’s cell phone… I couldn’t hear it”
Jitterbug is designed with an improved speaker. There’s an adjustable volume control, and Jitterbug is hearing-aid compatible.

“I don’t need stock quotes, Internet sites or games on my phone, I just want to talk with my family and friends”
Life is complicated enough… Jitterbug is simple.

“What if I don’t remember a number?”
Friendly, helpful Jitterbug operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

“I’d like a cell phone to use in an emergency, but I don’t want a high monthly bill”
Jitterbug has a plan to fit your needs… and your budget.

---

### Monthly Minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Basic 14</th>
<th>Basic 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Minutes</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$14.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Rate</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator Assistance</td>
<td>24/7</td>
<td>24/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>911 Access</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Distance Calls</td>
<td>No add’l charge</td>
<td>No add’l charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Dial</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide Coverage</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Return Policy</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

““My cell phone company wants to lock me in on a two-year contract!”
Not Jitterbug, there’s no contract to sign and no penalty if you discontinue your service.

“I’ll be paying for minutes I’ll never use”
Not with Jitterbug, unused minutes carry over to the next month, there’s no roaming fee and no additional charge for long distance.

“My phone’s battery only lasts a couple of days”
The Jitterbug’s battery lasts for up to 25 days.

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

Jitterbug Plus Cell Phone

Call today to get your own Jitterbug Plus.

Please mention promotional code 47647.

1-877-492-4809

www.jitterbugdirect.com

We proudly accept the following credit cards.
### TAPS In Memoriam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BRANCH</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BRANCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams, John M, PNC, USN</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>Hakeem, Philip S, MMC, USN</td>
<td>086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelman, Joseph L, CAPT, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Hampton, William R, USN</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Anthony, POC, USN</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Hanrahan, Verne W, YNC, USN</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antczak, Michael J, EMCM, USN</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>Heyer, James H, STCM, USN</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appleman, Wilbur C, QMCS, USN</td>
<td>043</td>
<td>Hilbun, Paul R, POC, USN</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnes, Herbert, HM1, USN</td>
<td>042</td>
<td>PRPSC, Hobson, Jerry L, ATC, USN</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bauer, David, AT1, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Holman, Vern L, EMCS, USN</td>
<td>037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bednarick, Raymond S, PNCM, USN</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>Hosford, Steve, USN</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belford, William J, BM, USN</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Housh, Robert F, ADRC, USN</td>
<td>047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, Herbert D, LT, USN</td>
<td>027</td>
<td>Hubka, Verne R, CDR(SR), USN</td>
<td>070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowler, John E, PMC, USN</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>Hull, Raymond L, FTCS, USN</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewster, Kyle E, AMSC, USN</td>
<td>043</td>
<td>Isabelle, Fernand J, PO1, USN</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Gary M, AECS, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Jandron, Anthony L, SKCS, USN</td>
<td>042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, James E, CTAC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Jenkins, Robert J, RMCS, USN</td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capps, Walter C, SH1, USN</td>
<td>022</td>
<td>PRPEC, Johnson, Dan A, CWO, USMC</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain, Charles D, AT1, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Johnson, Robert R, EMC, USN</td>
<td>014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll, Jesse J, YNC, USN</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Jones, Robert L, SKC, USN</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalmers, Donald R, HM1, USN</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>Kalbfell, Robert C, SH1, USN</td>
<td>001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chappell, Roy B, CWO, USN</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>Kelsey, James N, QMCS, USN</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopherson, K L, YNC, USN</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Kristof, Harold C, ENCS, USN</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford, Frank T, ICC, USN</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>Kuykendall, Charles, QMC(SS), USN</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comer, Norman C, RDC, USN</td>
<td>047</td>
<td>Langland, Ronald J, HMC, USN</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Converse, Charles A, CW4O, USN</td>
<td>040</td>
<td>Leonard, Julian F, ADCS, USN</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corriveau, Jon B, BT3, USN</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lester, Robert M, GYSGT, USMC</td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Los Reyes, G., CPO, USN</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>Lewis, Joseph, AE1, USN</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennard, James, SSGT, USMC</td>
<td>037</td>
<td>Long, Charlie L, POCS, USN</td>
<td>089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietrichson, Warren D, CDR, USN</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>MacDonald, S John, STCM, USN</td>
<td>094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Druckenmiller, R., CM1, USNR</td>
<td>048</td>
<td>Maciag, Stanley J, MMCM, USN</td>
<td>027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellison, Fayette R, AFCM, USN</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>Macdonald, Gordon E, AFCM, USN</td>
<td>094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encina, Rodolfo Y, CPO, USN</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>McQuigg, Gene, ATC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensor, Allan D, BMCS, USN</td>
<td>055</td>
<td>Monzon, Victoriano A, AK1, USN</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewald, Robert R, YNC, USN</td>
<td>055</td>
<td>Moore, Joe D, ACC, USN</td>
<td>022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairman, Walter S, MSGT, USMC</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Mott, Glenn E, DCC, USN</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faucette, Leo F, SA, USN</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>Murphy, Thomas W, YNC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fike, Bobbie L, DCC, USN</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>Naylor, William P, CDR, USNR</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishpaw, Herbert L, HTCM(SW), USN</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>Noble, Terry L, CTTCM, USN</td>
<td>022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuller, Richard S, ATC, USN</td>
<td>097</td>
<td>Oberlander, Elmer R, HMC, USN</td>
<td>053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner, Keith A, UTCS, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Owens, Francis P, ADJC, USN</td>
<td>051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garner, Richard E, PNCM, USN</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>Pallen, Ronald X, RMC, USN</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geller, Louis, EMC, USN</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>Pease, Jerry, MCPO, USN</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentry, Johnny M, HMC, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Pilenis, Harold A, CMC, USN</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson, Jesse H, PO1, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Poole, Edward L, EM1(SS), USN</td>
<td>087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilchrist, James R, ADCS, USN</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>Porter, Howard H, CWO, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilmore, Thomas F, ADCS, USN</td>
<td>053</td>
<td>Price, Bert L, ADJC, USN</td>
<td>070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow, John R, HTCM, USN</td>
<td>011</td>
<td>Proteau, Leo A, CWO, USN</td>
<td>029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Names in red indicate 50 year continuous members.
**Rare African Emerald Find Shocks Colombian Cartel**

**U.S. jeweler seizes more than 10,000 carats and makes history by releasing the One-Carat Pride of Zambia Emerald Ring for UNDER $100!**

**LUSAKA, ZAMBIA** - A recent find of high quality emeralds in this African republic has thrown the luxury gem world into tumult. For hundreds of years, Colombians have controlled the high-end emerald market and sent prices soaring to over $15,000 per carat for top graded stones. But the history-making discovery of Zambian emeralds has revealed a green gemstone with mesmerizing clarity that simply changes everything.

This important find led Stauer, a major gem dealer and importer, to bid on over 10,000 carats. Stauer designed a classic 1-ctw ring for people who love the gem but don’t love outrageously priced luxury. Because of their timely buy, Stauer is releasing this exclusive, natural emerald ring—aka “The Pride of Zambia”—to the public for under $100!

**Discover a Different Kind of Emerald**

“For the price, these natural gemstones were the most magnificent emeralds that I’ve seen in 30 years,” said Michael Bisciglia at Stauer. “The value of Colombian stones can’t compare.”

Industry experts back him up. Lab tests prove that Zambian emeralds are less porous and brittle than their Colombian brothers. And gem cutters have found Zambians so brilliant that they lend themselves more to high-luster cuts than traditional emerald designs.

Unfortunately, the window on this exciting emerald opportunity is closing fast. Not long after Stauer acquired their cache, a recent auction saw Zambian emerald prices hit a new record high. The time to act on this great gem value is now, before it’s too late. Please call our U.S.-based client service team at 1-888-277-8375 or visit us online at www.stauer.com.

**Emerald Is THE Gem of 2014**

The rise of emeralds is more than just a passing trend. An article in the *Financial Times of London* from June of this year pointed to the reason. In “Emeralds: Shades of Green Start to Outshine Diamonds,” the newspaper reported that emerald demand is soaring worldwide even as diamond demand softens. Rarity is key as fine emeralds are much rarer than diamonds.

“With wealthy Russian and Chinese demand for emeralds way up, we expect prices to continue to rise quickly,” Bisciglia said. “That’s why we’re so happy to have found these beautiful stones at this price.”

**Your Satisfaction is 100% Guaranteed**

Call today and wear the Pride of Zambia RISK-FREE (less s&p) for 30 days. If you’re not dazzled by this precious gemstone, simply send it back for a full refund of your purchase price.

**Pride of Zambia Emerald Ring**

(1 ctw) Only $99 + shipping & processing

**Call now to take advantage of this fantastic offer.**

1-888-277-8375

Promotional Code ZER160-01

Please mention this code when you call.

---

*For more information concerning the appraisal, visit [http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp](http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp).*
BRANCH 185 OGDEN, UTAH
Branch members paraded flags through the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in South Ogden on Veterans Day, thanking the owner and staff for their support of the military and veterans. Pictured are PRPWC Shane Dunstan, Robert Porter, Dennis Howland, Branch President Robert Buck, Vyron Dowdle, Stan Martinez, Carla Martinez, Ed Glover, Don McCoach, members of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the managers of the Texas Roadhouse.

BRANCH 170 EVERETT, WASH.
PRPNW Marion Dent Hoglund was honored for her 40 years of continuous FRA membership by Branch President Ron Vukasin.

BRANCH 42 QUONSET POINT, R.I.
PRPNEng Phil Justin (left) and Branch President Kenneth Senker (right) congratulate Shipmate Robert Gagne on his 50 years of continuous FRA membership.

BRANCH 1 PHILADELPHIA, PA.
PRPNE Charles Rainey (left) and PRPNE William Reese (right) present a plaque and gift certificate to the Enlisted Person of the Quarter at USCG Station in Philadelphia. (Photo taken by Shipmate Patrick LaRose.)

BRANCH 101 SANTA CLARA, CALIF.
Branch and Unit members annually conduct a flag retirement ceremony in various locations in the community. Shown (l to r) at the 2013 ceremony at The Villages are Phillip Strong, Shipmates Katherine Blanton, Tom Flowers, Boye Sweet and Auxiliary members Sue Thompson and Karen Webster.
BRANCH 161  KANSAS CITY, MO.
PRPNC David Combs (fourth from the left) is being honored for his many years working to assist those with special needs. Shown here at a ground-breaking ceremony, an apartment complex for developmentally challenged adults is being built in Blue Springs, Mo., and will bear Shipmate Combs’ name.

BRANCH 118  CAPE CORAL, FLA.
Shipmate Howard Robinson (left) was recognized for his 55 years of Loyalty, Protection and Service by Branch President John Panko.

BRANCH 186  HERNANDO, FLA.
Five Pearl Harbor survivors were honored during the branch’s annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day luncheon. Shown (l to r) are Arthur Fusco (USA, Wheeler Field), Shipmates Robert Bewley (USN, Ford Island) and Donald Dertien (USN, USS Farragut), Jack Cissel (USAAF, Fort Shafter) and Shipmate Ted Archambault (USMC, 1st Marine Division). Shipmates Leo Allard and Arthur Hampy, who are also Pearl Harbor survivors, were unable to attend this year’s event.

BRANCH 93  PATUXENT RIVER, MD.
Branch and Unit members participated in Maryland’s largest Veterans Day parade in Leonardtown. Although the attendees enjoyed the presentation of the colors, the addition of Branch 93’s “Navy Goat” was a definite crowd pleaser!

BRANCH 104  PUYALLUP, WASH.
Congratulations to Shipmate Dwight Thayer for his 50 years of continuous FRA membership! Shown (l to r) are PNP “John” Johnson, Branch President Mark Thompson, Thayer and Shipmate Len Barrett. (Photo taken by Shipmate Rex Faubion)

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.
Message from the West Coast Regional President

I WANT TO FIRST THANK the West Coast Region for their confidence in me to serve as your Regional President for another term. It is really an honor and a privilege. We are very proud of our members who work very hard and give their all for the other members. I haven’t started my visitations yet, but what a pleasant time it will be to see old friends and new members.

I will start the visits after the Pilgrimage at Arlington National Cemetery, which will be held April 12–13, 2014, with lodging at Westin Tyson’s Corner in Arlington, Virginia. You can call 800-937-8461 or 703-893-1340 to make reservations. Be sure to mention LA FRA when calling.

As I prepare to visit different units in the West Coast Region, I see that each unit is busy doing a lot of patriotic service and community work and still manages to have time for their own families. They have been sponsoring Little League teams, collecting food for the needy, collecting coats for children, Toys for Tots, helping local churches, sending packages overseas for the troops, giving scholarships to high school graduates, and making layettes for newborn babies. These are just a few of the many things the units of the LA FRA are doing in the community.

And don’t forget to make plans now for the West Coast Mid-Year Meeting, held in March.

West Coast Mid-Year Meeting
March 21–22, 2014
Hilton Stockton
2323 Grand Canal Blvd
Stockton, CA 95207
800-HILTONS or 209-957-9090
Room Rate: $99 plus tax
Branch 113 Secretary: Frank Reyes
Ph: 209-465-5839
e-mail: freyes9725@sbcglobal.net

Convention Chair: Maria A. Behm,
President Unit 113
3011 Dunn Road
Valley Springs, Ca 95252
Ph: 209-471-3011
e-mail: mbehm77@comcast.net

To those who lost a loved one, may your heart mend in time, love and support to family and friends. To those who are ill or under the weather, may there be brighter days ahead. To those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, may you have many more.

58th West Coast Regional Convention
August 21–23, 2014
Gold Dust West Hotel and Casino
2171 E. William Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Hosted By: Silver Dollar Branch 192 and Minden Unit 137
More details to follow soon
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
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 'FW, 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.