GOLD EAGLE AT-COST COIN RELEASE

AMERICANS OWN GOLD FOR ONLY $128!

The U.S. Money Reserve Main Vault Facility today announces what could be the final release of U.S. government-issued gold coins previously held in the West Point Depository/U.S. Mint. For the first time in recent history, U.S. citizens can buy these 2014 government-issued $5 gold coins at an incredible at-cost price of only $128.00 each—an amazing price because these U.S. government-issued gold coins are completely free of dealer markup. That’s correct—our cost. Gold, which is currently around $1,160 per ounce, is predicted by experts to have the explosive upside potential of reaching up to $5,000 per ounce in the future. Please be advised: Our U.S. government gold inventory will be priced at $128.00 per coin while supplies last or for up to 30 days. Call 1-855-837-5868 now!

$5 AMERICAN EAGLE GOLD COIN APPROVED: PUBLIC LAW 99-185

Orders that are not immediately received or reserved with the order center could be subject to cancellation and your checks returned uncashed. We hope that everyone will have a chance to purchase this special U.S. government-issued gold at cost. Order immediately before our vault sells out completely! Call toll-free 1-855-837-5868 today. If you had $50,000 in the bank and you transferred it into gold at today’s prices, your money could potentially grow to more than four times its current value—over $215,000. On the other hand, if you leave that same $50,000 in the bank for 10 years, chances are, it’s only going to be worth the same $50,000. When you convert money to gold, you have transferred its value from a paper currency into a precious metal that can rise in both market and numismatic value. This is how the genius of owning gold can protect your money in today’s very volatile market. Thousands of individuals have lost their entire fortunes overnight. Don’t let it happen to you. The gold market is currently very explosive, and in our opinion smart individuals are moving up to 30% of their assets into gold. Call a Senior Gold Specialist today to lock in your at-cost government gold order!

CALL NOW: 1-855-837-5868

BEGINNING TODAY, TELEPHONE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS ACCORDING TO THE TIME AND DATE OF THE ORDER!

MASTERCARD • VISA • AMEX • DISCOVER • CHECK • BANK WIRE

Offer valid for up to 30 days
Or while supplies last

VAULT CODE: FRA18-128

© 2014 U.S. Money Reserve
Featured

18 FRA RECRUITING TOOLBOX
Having the right tools always makes it easier to accomplish the task at hand, and it can often save time and resources, too. Learn about some of the recruiting tools that can help you recruit new FRA shipmates and strengthen the Association.

Departments

2 COMMUNICATIONS

4 FROM THE FANTAIL

6 SHIPMATE FORUM

8 ON & OFF CAPITOL HILL
Grassroots Involvement Pays Dividends in 2014

14 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Public Awareness of FRA

16 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Announcing the FRA Member Album

26 NHQ GRAND OPENING
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for NHQ Office Building

28 OPERATION REFIT UPDATE

30 TAPS

32 REUNIONS/LOOKING FOR...

34 NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

36 NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY OF THE FRA
Message from National Vice President Karen Smith

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
FRA Shipmates have a wide variety of resources available to help them promote the Association’s good work and encourage others to join this fine organization. Put those tools to use and help grow the FRA!
Connection vs Perfection

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR is typically the time we take stock of our successes, examine how we can do things more effectively going forward and set goals for the upcoming 12 months. All shipmates can be justifiably proud of FRA’s 2014 legislative successes (outlined on page 8) and the capital improvements to our National Headquarters (NHQ) building (see page 26) that were accomplished during the last calendar year. This month’s feature story, as well as the “Membership Matters” column (on page 14), highlight some innovative approaches to promoting the benefits of FRA membership. We hope each shipmate will take ownership of these concepts, set a goal to recruit at least one new shipmate and use the referenced resources to achieve that goal.

My professional resolution for 2015 is slightly different that it’s been in the past. For the past several years as the editor of FRA Today, I’ve striven for an error-free issue. I’ve come close a few times and the errors are usually small ones, but I’ve yet to achieve perfection. I recently discovered the poem below in a 1977 issue of Naval Affairs (the predecessor to FRA Today) that sums up a common barrier to my success.

The Typographical Error
The typographical error is a slippery thing and sly; You can hunt it ‘til you’re dizzy, but somehow it will get by. ’Til the forms are off the presses, it is strange how still it keeps. It shrinks down in a corner and it never stirs or peeps. That typographical error, too small for human eyes, ’Til the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size. The remainder of the issue may be clean as clean can be, But the typographical error is the only thing you see.

Over the years, I’ve come to realize that perfection is not only elusive; it’s a subjective standard and really not all that relevant to the purpose of this magazine. Pursuit of excellence is always admirable, but this year I resolve to write and edit FRA Today in a way that facilitates and encourages connections — among our shipmates, within our Association and with outside entities who may know nothing about the FRA.

Connecting shipmates with one another is really what this publication — and the FRA as a whole — is all about. As we embark on the New Year, I wish you positive and meaningful connections in all facets of your life.

Happy 2015!

Lauren Armstrong is FRA’s Director of Communications and serves as the Managing Editor of FRA Today. Please contact her at lauren@fra.org.
TO HONOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

CAREER SERVICE BIRTHSTONE RINGS
HANDCRAFTED IN AMERICA FEATURING YOUR SERVICE EMBLEM IN 10KT GOLD, CAREER INSIGNIA, PERSONAL BIRTHSTONES OR DIAMONDS

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.
- 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 for details.)
- Thank you priced at just $239* (Optional genuine Diamond Rings are $389*) with an affordable payment plan available.

YOUR CHOICE OF NAVY CAREER INSIGNIA:

YOUR CHOICE OF BIRTHSTONE:

NAMES REFER TO COLOR. STONES SIMULATED FOR CONSISTENT SIZE AND COLOR. OPTIONAL GENUINE DIAMONDS AVAILABLE: EIGHT 1/2 PT (INNER BEZEL) AND TWO 3 PT (OUTER BEZEL).

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-255-3048
Mon - Fri from 9am - 5pm EST. Please have Credit card & ring size ready.

YES. I wish to order the following U.S. Navy Career Service Birthstone Ring with my Service Branch Emblem cast in solid 10KT Gold, personal birthstones, career insignia, initials and year dates of service as follows:

Please send me my FREE American Flag Pin.

I EXPRESSLY REQUEST: (N1 thru N16), see above: _______ BIRTHSTONE NO. (1):

I PREFER ALL DIAMONDS for an extra $150* added to my first payment.

RING SIZE (Use the ring sizer below or check with a jeweler):

INITIALS (3):

SERVICE YEARS:

I AM AN HONOR RECIPIENT. Please place my medal & ribbon on the side of my ring opposite my Career Insignia.

NOTE: A copy of your DD214 or other authorizing document must be sent with your order. Thank You.

Purple Heart  Silver Star  Bronze Star

As a final touch of exclusivity your ring will be engraved on the inside band with your initials and years of service.

FREE FLAG PIN WITH EVERY ORDER

FOIOTHER FINE MILITARY RINGS & WATCHES VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES’ ONLINE AT VETCOM.COM
THE FRA TOOLBOX

FRA TOOLBOX

THIS MONTH’S FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS the FRA Toolbox. We all have one or two favorite tools that we reach for when we need to make adjustments or repairs in order to keep things operating well. Whether it’s for our cars, computers, homes or work spaces, the right tools give us a boost to keep things moving along. The FRA Toolbox is no exception. The tools outlined on pages 18–25 are designed to help us highlight FRA’s great work and advance its mission, as well as enhance our membership. These tools directly support what I call “the six pillars for FRAs’ future success.”

These six pillars are related to increasing and maintaining our membership and raising awareness of the Association, and were developed by FRA staff and leadership.

FIRST: Tell folks who we are and what we do. Invite them to join after they understand our purpose.

SECOND: Lock the back door. Find out why some of our members are not renewing their memberships and work to address their concerns.

THIRD: Community involvement. Participate in community activities — as a branch or individual shipmate — and make an effort to publicize that involvement. We need to get out and tell our 90-year story at the local, regional and national levels.

FOURTH: Communicate with your elected officials. Our National Headquarters (NHQ) staff works hard to advance FRA’s legislative agenda on Capitol Hill, and that work is greatly enhanced when our shipmates also connect with their elected officials and share their views. Our legislative staff works to influence 535 representatives and senators here in Washington, D.C., which we do well. Each shipmate has only three elected representatives — one representative and two senators — who are often more receptive to direct messages from constituents. Together, we can reach them all.

FIFTH: Advocate for one another. Many of our members have given much to this Association and their fellow shipmates in the spirit of Loyalty, Protection and Service. Let’s keep that tradition at the forefront when dealing with one another.

SIXTH: Mentor a new member. When a new member attends a branch meeting or other function, go out of your way to make him or her feel welcome. Encourage their involvement and respect their ideas. A fresh perspective could spark new ideas for the branch and the FRA as a whole.

We have many tools available at NHQ and we’re always looking for new ways to help shipmates and branches promote and enhance the FRA. In addition to the printed materials highlighted in this month’s feature article, we also have scripts and talking points, and can arrange for speakers to attend your outreach events, too. If you’d like for us to come to you, talk to your Regional Presidents, who in turn will contact the National President and work to reinforce the FRA spirit.

FRA has a long history of strong and effective advocacy on behalf of military personnel and veterans, and that energy and determination continue today. Together with our partners in The Military Coalition (TMC), senior enlisted leaders, Capitol Hill staffers and our contacts within the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, we are increasing our reach in promoting the FRA.

We’re working to provide additional copies of FRA Today to a growing audience, and sharing our monthly NewsBytes, our legislative alerts, an online Bill Tracker, and other communications vehicles that showcase our progress as we continue moving forward. We’re also receiving an increasing number of invitations to meet with military and community groups to share our goals and vision for accomplishing them. On many of my recent base visits, commanding officers and senior enlisted leaders are asking for help in providing information to enhance and strengthen their General Military Training (GMT), and FRA’s legislative work is a great adjunct to their curriculum. Shipmates in the field are invited and welcome to use tabletop displays, prepared speeches, PowerPoint/Prezi presentations and other tools in the FRA Toolbox of information and communication resources.

Shipmates, I invite you to use these tools and help develop new ones to strengthen this momentum. FRA membership isn’t just about joining a club; it’s about working to support and advocate for our fellow shipmates — just as it was when the FRA was established. Let’s keep that motion going by engaging with people in the local communities (including military installations and media outlets) and make “the surge.” We can, we are, and it is paying off. PRESS ON!

Tom Snee is FRA’s National Executive Director and can be reached at NEDFRA@fra.org.
America has a profound history filled with momentous events and generations of people with pioneering spirit who have stood strong together—united as one. Now, you can let American patriotism live on, when you represent this proud and historic nation with the “American Pride” Dogtag Pendant.

HANDCRAFTED IN AN EXCLUSIVE DESIGN
Crafted of tough-as-an-American stainless steel, our dogtag pendant features a majestic sculpted eagle and American flag motif on a bold hand-enameled black surface. Adding to the meaning and value, a stunning banner reads, “AMERICAN PRIDE.” Plus, the dogtag pendant is finely etched on the reverse side with “GOD BLESS AMERICA,” along with a waving American flag. As a final touch, the pendant has a custom designed bail, showcasing an array of sculpted stars and stripes, that holds a 24” open linked chain.

AN EXCEPTIONAL VALUE... AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME
This handsome pendant is a remarkable value at $79, payable in 4 easy installments of just $19.75* and backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. It arrives in a velvet jewelry pouch and gift box along with a Certificate of Authenticity. To reserve, send no money now, just mail the Reservation Application. This is an exclusive Bradford Exchange design—you won’t find it in stores. So don’t miss out—order yours today!

“AMERICAN PRIDE” DOGTAG PENDANT
A Fine Jewelry Exclusive Available Only from The Bradford Exchange

Finely etched on the reverse side with “GOD BLESS AMERICA”

www.bradfordexchange.com/16042
©2013 BGE 01-16042-001-BI
TFL while deferring Medicare?
I will be turning 65 in March of 2015, and I am able to defer getting Medicare because I have health insurance through my wife’s employer. The problem I have is that in order to get Tricare for Life, I still need to have Medicare. If Medicare can give me a deferment because I have health insurance, why can’t Tricare do the same?

Bob Lijewski

FRA Response: The law requires beneficiaries to have Medicare Part B coverage in order to be eligible for TRICARE for Life (TFL) benefits. According to the TFL website (www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL/TFL_OHI.aspx), “If you have other health insurance, such as a Medicare supplement or an employer-sponsored health plan, you may use TRICARE For Life (TFL) as long as you’re eligible for Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B coverage. By law, TRICARE pays claims only after all other health insurances pay. After Medicare processes the claim it automatically forwards it to your other health insurance. Once your other health insurance processes the claim, you must file a paper claim with the TFL contractor. The contractor will process the claim and pay TRICARE’s portion of the claim directly to you.

You must submit your paper claims to the TFL contractor along with a copy of your provider’s itemized bill, the Medicare Summary Notice, and explanation of benefits from all other health insurances. You must file TFL claims within one year from the date of care.”

Stop Playing Politics With Veterans
Our legislators in Washington must stop playing politics with our veterans; this is especially true for Vietnam War veterans. Will the game-playing carry over to our veterans of present day wars? Will they too become pawns? Veterans have few friends in Washington. Just like the Vietnam veterans, [I fear] today’s veterans will face what we are up against, little to no support.

When our men and women in uniform come home from conflicts abroad, they are met by the news media, handshakes by politicians and photo ops. Parades are organized by veterans’ groups for a “Welcome Home.” Most of these groups are comprised of Vietnam Vets, [trying to] make up for the welcome home they did not receive. The Vietnam War offered them only shame and [they were] forgotten.

Many veterans suffer with cancer, brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder. Many of these diseases are not noticed and, in some cases, go untreated until they become severe. Our Congress needs to wake up and provide equitable VA benefits.

President Calvin Coolidge said, “A nation that forgot its fighters and defenders will itself be forgotten.” The American people are urged to write and call their members of Congress and demand they take positive action providing VA benefits to those in need.

John J. Bury

Likes for “IKE”
Many thanks for the excellent article on air operations aboard U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69). I was an Ike sail-or from 1984–88 and, while [my duty] was in the far less hazardous occupation of Public Affairs, I nonetheless became familiar with flight deck operations, as well as all other aspects of the ship during qualification as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS). It was aboard IKE that I earned my ESWS pin, and subsequently made chief. Of the six ships aboard on which I served, IKE today remains my favorite and most memorable. As Bob Hope used to say, “Thanks for the memories.”

Timothy Siggia

The article on the Ike (“Navy Flight Support”, FRA Today, October 2014) was great and brought back a lot of memories. I worked on the deck as a brown shirt, a plane captain for a deployed squadron. We were the ones who got the planes ready for the pilot and removed the chains for take-off, and we were there when the birds came back in. Our task was just like the yellow shirts and blue shirts along with our checkers, black squares on a white shirt. Again, thanks for the enjoyable article.

Jim Lafferty
“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 big monthly bill”
Jitterbug has a plan to fit your needs... and your budget.

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

Jitterbug5 Cell Phone
Call toll free today to get your own Jitterbug5.
Please mention promotional code 48862.
1-888-752-1194
www.jitterbugdirect.com

We proudly accept the following credit cards.
Grassroots Involvement Pays Dividends in 2014

FRA SHIPMATES USED THE FRA Action Center (action.fra.org) to send 43,715 e-mail messages to members of Congress in 2014, and nearly 116,000 e-mail messages — an all-time high — were sent to Capitol Hill during the 113th Congress (2013–2014)! Since implementing the Action Center in 2005, usage has increased almost tenfold and continues to grow with each Congress.

The Action Center provides pre-written messages of support or opposition to legislative proposals that impact FRA shipmates. Members can personalize those messages or write their own, and e-mail them directly to their elected officials in Washington. Grassroots advocacy has a direct and powerful influence on the Association’s ability to effectively represent our members’ concerns before Congress and appropriate federal agencies.

The 113th Congress ended in December and it’s important to remember that no further action can be taken on any unpassed measures. Legislation not passed during the 113th Congress must be re-introduced in the 114th Congress, which starts on January 6, 2015.

Shipmates’ Action Center messages were significant in helping FRA achieve the legislative victories listed below. As the new year and new session of Congress begin, your FRA Legislative Team is energized by these successes and remains committed to maintaining a strong and credible presence on Capitol Hill, and advance FRA’s 2015 Legislative Agenda, which was approved by the delegates at the 87th National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, and published in the December 2014 issue of FRA Today.

In the past year, FRA was successful in:
- Repealing a one-percent cut in cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for retirees under age 62 who joined the military before January 1, 2014;
- Beating back the Administration’s effort to reduce commissary subsidies;
- Protecting personnel programs from arbitrary sequestration-driven budget cuts;
- Convincing the Administration to abandon its call for implementing the chained consumer price index (CPI) for determining COLA increase (in lieu of the current CPI calculation) for its 2015 budget request;
- Supporting the “SGR Repeal and Medical Provider Payment Act,” which would create a fair and stable system for establishing reimbursement rates for physicians who see Medicare and TRICARE patients. (The House passed this initiative, but the so-called “Doc Fix” will need to be addressed before current legislation expires on April 1, 2015);
- Enacting the VA Choice Program to make it easier for certain disabled veterans to use non-VA health care providers;
- Implementing FRA-supported legislation that expands health care coverage for Marines to include family members who lived on Camp Lejeune MCB and were exposed to contaminated drinking water from 1957–1987;
- Securing increased funding to support VA programs;
- Increasing congressional support for Agent Orange/Blue Water Navy legislation (H.R. 543) by 51 additional legislators;
- Ensuring language from the Agent Orange Ship Accountability Act was included in both House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, see page 9);
- Enacting in-state tuition rates for veterans and eligible dependents using the Post-9/11 GI Bill; and

Despite strong grassroots support from FRA members, Congress has not excluded the Department of Defense (DoD) from future sequestration cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011. By law, half of these cuts must come from DoD, even though Defense makes up only 17 percent of the entire federal budget.
Compromise on NDAA Passed and Signed into Law

Congress passed, and President Obama signed, a shortened version of the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in early December. The final bill was a compromise on key provisions important to FRA members. The final bill provides for the following:

- A smaller-than-requested increase in pharmacy co-pays ($3 increase) for retirees under age 65 that took effect when bill was signed into law;
- A one-percent annual pay increase for active duty personnel and reservists;
- A one-percent reduction for one year in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). (The Administration requested and the Senate version of the bill included a five-percent cut over three years.);
- A mandatory pharmacy home-delivery program for retirees under age 65 that takes effect on January 1, 2016;
- A small reduction in the commissary subsidy that is not expected to impact prices;
- Elimination of the requirement that each 90 days of creditable time toward Reserve early retirement must be completed within the same fiscal year;
- Protection from the one-percent COLA cut extended to service members who joined the military after January 1, 2016 (in lieu of January 1, 2014 in the previous law); and
- Improvements to sexual assault provisions.

FRA will continue its efforts to advance FRA-supported provisions that were dropped from the final bill as it was hurried through the approval process.

Federal Spending Bill

As this issue of FRA Today goes to press, the FY 2015 budget is still a work in progress. The federal government is operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) that keeps government spending at FY 2014 levels until December 11, 2014. The House is expected to pass an omnibus bill to keep the government open for the remainder of this fiscal year (until Sept. 30, 2015), except for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which will be funded only until the end of March 2015.

At the end of the 113th Congress, the House had passed only five of the 12 spending bills for FY 2015 and the Senate had not passed any. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have been working on an omnibus bill since Congress recessed in August and the final measure is expected to include major provisions of the 12 annual appropriations (spending) bills.

Make-up of 114th Congress

When members of the 114th Congress are sworn in on January 6, 2015, there will be fewer military veterans in the House of Representatives than in the previous Congress, but slightly more in the Senate. The number of representatives with military experience in the upcoming Congress will drop from 84 to 81. Twenty Senators will have military experience on their resumes, up from 19 in the 113th Congress. This will also be the first Congress in a very long time that does not include any World War II veterans.

As a result of the 2014 general election in November, the Republicans increased their majority in the House and gained majority control of the U.S. Senate. Both the House and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairmen (California Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon and Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, respectively) are retiring and were replaced Rep. Mac Thornberry (Texas) in the House and Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) in the Senate.

Hagel Resigns, Ashton Carter Tapped for SecDef

Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Chuck Hagel announced his resignation after less than 21 months on the job. Press reports indicate that he was forced to resign over policy differences with senior White House staff. Hagel was the first former enlisted member of the military and the first Vietnam veteran to be appointed as Defense Secretary, and will stay in the post until his replacement is confirmed by the Senate.

President Obama nominated Ashton Carter to replace Hagel. Carter has never served in the military, but has extensive Pentagon and national security experience. He began as a civilian missile defense analyst in 1981 and was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy during the Clinton Administration (1993–2000). Most recently, he served as Deputy Secretary of Defense from October 2011 to December 2013.

USCG End Strength to Increase

The House and Senate passed the “Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act” (H.R. 5769), which would authorize the U.S. Coast Guard to increase its end strength from 41,800 to 43,000 for FY 2015. The legislation also establishes standards, inspections, and employee qualifications for Coast Guard Child Development Centers and would allow the Coast Guard to provide tuition assistance for eligible spouses to continue their education to obtain a degree and enhance employment opportunities.
Nurse Advice Line Available for Travel

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) wants to remind TRICARE beneficiaries that if they and their families have a medical problem while traveling, they can call the Nurse Advice Line (NAL) for all health concerns and needs while on the road.

The NAL is the DHA’s new initiative to provide the advice you need, when you need it. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select Option 1 to talk to a registered nurse who can answer your urgent-care questions, give health care advice, help you find a doctor, or schedule a next-day appointment at a military hospital or clinic.

If you or a member of your family becomes ill while traveling, calling the NAL can help you figure out what steps to take. The nurse will ask you questions about the symptoms that you or your family members are experiencing and provide advice on whether or not you need to seek care. When you are traveling, the NAL nurse will help you find a safe, high-quality health care facility in the TRICARE network. If you are a military hospital or clinic enrollee, the NAL will send a follow-up note to your primary care manager and medical team back home so they will know how you are doing.

You can safely travel with TRICARE and the NAL. The NAL is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information on accessing the NAL while on the go, visit www.TRICARE.mil/NAL

Congress Recognizes FRA’s 90th Anniversary

Representative Joe Wilson (S.C.), chairman of the House Armed Services’ Military Personnel Subcommittee, congratulated FRA on its 90th anniversary and his comments are now part of the Congressional Record. He thanked the Association for its “unwavering commitment to support the needs of our active duty, Reserves, and retired military members.” Wilson also thanked FRA Past National President Virgil Courneya and current National President John Ippert for their dedication and hard work in supporting, maintaining, and improving the quality of life for past, present and future Sea Service personnel and their families.


Veterans’ Day and USMC Birthday

FRA shipmates around the country followed a long-standing tradition by participating in Veterans’ Day ceremonies on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, which also marked FRA’s 90th anniversary. FRA National President John Ippert (Branch 46) and his daughter, Shipmate Mary Lees, attended a White House breakfast and ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, including a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

NP Ippert also participated in several events to commemorate the Marine Corps’ 239th birthday. On November 8, 2014, he was joined by NED Tom Snee, DLP John Davis and ADLP Stephen Tassin at the Commandant’s Marine Corps Ball. The event provided opportunities for interaction with the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal Barrett, members of the Commandant’s staff, and other key contributors and beneficiaries of FRA’s legislative advocacy efforts.


FRA On the Radio

On Saturday, November 15, 2014, FRA leadership went on the air for the “Welcome Home Show,” a radio talk show broadcast from New Jersey. Thanks to the generous donation by Branch 13 (Atlantic City, N.J.), this two-hour radio session focused on discussions about FRA and its important work on Capitol Hill.

Shipmate NP John Ippert, NVP Roger Mitchell, JrPNP Virgil Courneya, NED Tom Snee and shipmates from around the nation joined host Joe Griffies to discuss the importance and benefits of joining and supporting the Association. See page 14 for further details.
Perfect Choice HD™ is simple to use, hard to see and easy to afford…

Invention of the Year
PERSONAL SOUND AMPLIFICATION PRODUCTS (PSAPs)

THEY’RE NOT HEARING AIDS

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.

Personal Sound Amplification Products use advanced digital processing to amplify the frequencies of human speech. Thanks to the efforts of a doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, this product is manufactured in an efficient production process that enables us to make it available at an affordable price.

The unit 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 soft sounds and distant conversations will be easier to 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!

NEW
Now with more power and clarity!

Perfect Choice HD™ is simple to use, hard to see and easy to afford…

WEIGHT Less than 1 ounce
SOUND QUALITY Excellent: Optimized for speech
FITTING REQUIRED? No
ONE-ON-ONE SETUP Free
RETURN POLICY 60 Days

Virtually impossible to see.

Call toll free now for the lowest price ever.
1-877-708-2725

Please mention promotional code 48860.

1998 Ruffin Mill Road, Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Perfect Choice HD is not a hearing aid. If you believe you need a hearing aid, please consult a physician.
VA Implements Choice Program with Congressional Oversight

FRA is closely monitoring the implementation of the “Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act” (VACAA) that was recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President (P.L. 113-146). Among other provisions, the new FRA-supported law establishes the “Choice Program” to improve accessibility to Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) health care by allowing eligible veterans to use qualified health care providers outside of the VA system.

The VACAA includes a $10 billion fund to pay for non-VA care for veterans who live 40 or more miles from a VA facility or have been waiting more than 30 days for care. VA will soon begin mailing “Choice Cards” to veterans who were enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014, and to recently-discharged combat veterans who enroll within the five-year window of eligibility.

Not all veterans who receive a card will be able to participate in the Choice Program. They must meet the criteria established under the new law, which will be implemented in stages. The Choice Card was issued in three phases. The first group of Choice Cards was mailed to veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The next group of Choice Cards was mailed to veterans waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days. The final mailing will be sent between December and January to the remainder of all veterans enrolled in VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

This program was highlighted in Tom Philpott’s syndicated “Military Update” column (11-6-14) and is available at www.fra.org. For additional information on this program, call 1-866-606-8198 or visit www.va.gov/opa/choiceact.

The House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) recently held a hearing to evaluate the implementation of the new law. VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson told committee members that all enrollees will receive Choice Cards by the end of January. FRA supported the VACAA and is monitoring implementation of the new law, which also makes it easier to terminate VA employees for inferior performance on the job. During the hearing, Gibson answered questions regarding the 1,000 VA employees, including 42 senior executives, who are currently pending termination for poor job performance. Several committee members, including Chairman Jeff Miller (Fla.) and Ranking Member Michael Michaud (Maine), expressed frustration with the slow speed with which VA is acting to complete those removals.

VA Advanced Funding

Both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees approved the “Putting Veterans Funding First Act” (H.R. 813/S. 932 respectively), sending both bills to the floor in their respective chambers of origin. FRA supported the measure because America’s veterans should not be held responsible for Washington’s inability to reach an agreement on how to cut spending. Our veterans were there for us when we needed them the most, and the “Putting Veterans Funding First Act” will ensure they have our support during their time of need.

Currently, Congress provides advanced funding for the VA’s health care programs as a result of FRA-supported legislation enacted in 2009 (P. L. 81-111). Providing a two-year budget cycle for the remainder of the discretionary budget—roughly $8 billion—would make it easier for the VA to plan for key investments in information technology, claims processing and construction projects.

Advanced funding was included in the FY 2015 spending bill and signed into law.
You may think you understood the concept of "priceless" jewelry. For years, “priceless” meant “astronomically expensive.” Owning “priceless” treasures was a rare privilege reserved for celebrities, billionaires, and royalty. The best most of us could do was dream. Until now…

Stauer smashes the luxury status quo with the release of our FREE* 200-ctw Lusso Amethyst Necklace. That’s right, we said FREE... as in “priceless.” No charge.* ZERO dollars. Call now and we’ll send you this impressive helping of genuine amethyst (independently appraised at $295) for FREE. We cut the price 100% and you pay only $19.95, our charge for shipping, processing and insurance. There are no tricks or gimmicks. You aren’t obligated to spend another dime or dollar with us... although we make it VERY hard to resist.

Why give away jewelry? We want your attention. Once you get a closer look at our rare gemstone treasures and vintage-inspired watches, and once you discover the guilt-free fun of getting “Luxury for Less,” we’re betting that you’ll fall in love with Stauer. If not? Keep your FREE Lusso Amethyst Necklace anyway. No hard feelings.

A collection of purple perfection. Your Lusso Amethyst Necklace is a 200-ctw symphony of smooth purple genuine gemstones. Each gemstone’s shape and translucence ignites the velvety, violet hues. The polished amethysts are hand-set on double-knotted jeweler’s thread, and the stunning 18” necklace (with 2” extender) secures with a gold-finished lobster clasp. Once you wear it, you’ll see that it hangs with the same weight and elegance as similar strands that sell for hundreds more.

One more surprise... If we had our way, we’d send your Lusso Amethyst Necklace with no shipping charge. Unfortunately, the rising cost of gas and freight makes that impossible. But, to sweeten the deal, we’ll include a $20 Stauer Gift Coupon with your FREE necklace. Amethyst is one of the world’s most coveted gemstones and our supply is extremely limited. An offer this good will not last very long. Call to reserve your FREE Lusso Amethyst Necklace today and treat yourself (or someone you love) to a brilliant new definition of priceless luxury!

Lusso Amethyst Necklace (200 ctw) $199**
Your Cost With Offer Code— FREE*
*pay only shipping & processing of $19.95.
You must use the offer code below to receive this special free necklace.
1-800-859-1680
Offer Code LAN213-01
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. LAN213-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

200 carats of pure luxury appraised at $295... yours FREE!*
Public Awareness of FRA

AS WE BEGIN THE New Year, we’re redoubling our efforts to increase FRA’s membership base — through recruiting and retention — and will be working on new ways to use existing tools and developing new ones to promote the FRA and the great work our organization does. Helping others outside our organization understand exactly what we’re all about is critical to efforts to recruit new shipmates.

Many of our shipmates and branch- es do wonderful community service events. You can see some of those activities represented in the “News From the Branches” section of this magazine each month. These events are also great public relations opportunities and can be the perfect time to promote the FRA in the local media.

As referenced in this month’s feature article, “public relations” is different than “advertising.” Public relations includes any activity or media coverage that presents the FRA in a positive light. Obviously, when shipmates are participating in a community parade or Toys for Tots drive, they’re positively representing FRA to others who are also involved in that activity. When your branch does this type of good work, it’s also possible to spread the word to a larger audience. Letting the media know of your upcoming event can help drum up broader participation and can also generate some great public relations traction!

FRA National Headquarters has developed some press release templates to help promote FRA’s Americanism Essay Contest and the FRA Education Foundation’s scholarship program, announce newly elected officers, and recognize shipmates who’ve dedicated decades of service to the FRA. Here are a couple of examples of shipmates’ commitment to their communities and promoting the FRA:

At the youthful age of 90, Shipmate Charles “Dan” Daniel (Branch 283, Elsmere, Ky.) made no bones about wanting to do something special to recognize the naval rating specialty of Hospital Corpsman. As highlighted in the November 2014 issue of FRA Today, Shipmate Dan convinced the State of Kentucky to designate a stretch of highway near Covington, Ky., as the “U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsmen Highway.” As part of his campaign, he referred frequently to the article about Hospital Corpsmen in the February 2013 issue of FRA Today and consistently mentioned the Association in a variety of media events related to the highway dedication. Kudos to Shipmate Dan, not only for being actively involved in his community and bringing attention to Hospital Corpsmen, but also for raising awareness about the FRA.

FRA Branch 13 (Atlantic City, N.J.) recently took public relations to a whole new level by arranging for FRA to be the topic of a two-hour radio program targeted at veterans. Branch President Bob Campbell contacted Joe Griffies, director of veterans’ affairs at WIBG 1020 AM/101.3 FM Radio in Ocean City, N.J. Griffies is also the host of “The Welcome Home Show,” which airs every Saturday and is a forum for veterans to discuss their concerns. Shipmate Bob was able to secure an entire two-hour show to introduce the FRA to listeners. Campbell and Shipmate Bob Burness (Branch 13) were joined on the air by FRA National President John Ippert, National Vice President Roger Mitchell, Junior Past National President Virgil Courneya, National Executive Director Thomas Snee, Regional President Northeast/ New England Floyd Hunt and Shipmate Tom Dougherty (Branch 232, Cape May, N.J.). The discussions were about FRA’s history, activities, legislative advocacy and requirements to join. One disabled Marine veteran who called in to participate in the show was recruited as a new member of the FRA. Kudos to Shipmate Campbell for using creativity to increase awareness of FRA.

FRA Branch 24 (Annapolis, Md.) held a Veterans Open House last fall to provide useful information to area veterans and attract prospective members. Flyers announcing the event were posted throughout the community and a special invitation was extended to community partners to participate by setting up tables to distribute veteran-specific information. Besides promoting the details of the event, these public relations efforts also highlighted the active presence of the branch within the community and helped strengthen the branch’s relationship with partners such as the Annapolis Vet Center, Navy Federal Credit Union and other vendors who displayed books, financial planning information and items for sale. This event was very successful: over 40 new members joined the branch, unit, or club.

There are many ways to project a positive image of the FRA in your local community. Whether you’re wearing your FRA hat in a parade or high-visibility event or talking one-on-one about FRA with a member of your community, remember that you are representing our great organization. Smile, be positive and be proud of your affiliation with the FRA.

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.
Have you ever said to yourself “I’d love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it.” Well, you’re not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they’ve gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the “pointing and clicking” and “dragging and dropping” you’re lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, there is finally a computer that’s designed for simplicity and ease of use. It’s the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you’ll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you’ll see the screen – it’s now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The “buttons” on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games – you name it… and a new screen opens up. It’s so easy to use you won’t have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are Discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn’t it time you took part? Call now, and a patient, knowledgeable product expert will tell you how you can try it in your home for 30 days. If you are not totally satisfied, simply return it within 30 days for a refund of the product purchase price. Call today.

NEW
Now comes with...
Larger 22-inch hi-resolution screen – easier to see
16% more viewing area
Simple navigation – so you never get lost
Intel® processor – lightning fast
Computer is in the monitor – No bulky tower
Advanced audio, Better speaker configuration – easier to hear
Text to Speech translation – it can even read your emails to you!
U.S. Based Customer Service

FREE
Automatic Software Updates

Send & Receive Emails
Have video chats with family and friends
Surf the Internet:
Get current weather and news
Play games Online:
Hundreds to choose from!

Call now toll free and find out how you can get the new WOW! Computer.

Mention promotional code 48861 for special introductory pricing.

1-877-788-5772

© 2015 by firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.
Announcing the FRA Member Album

**FRA IS CREATING A** yearbook-type album to celebrate our shipmates’ Loyalty, Protection and Service over the past 90 years. This beautiful full-color volume will showcase the Association’s history and accomplishments and will include photos and details from every shipmate who participates. It is an album you’ll be proud to display on your coffee table or in your branch library, and will be a resource and directory shipmates will refer to again and again.

Delegates at the 87th FRA National Convention approved the Fleet Reserve Association Member Album and authorized Harris Connect, our partner company in producing the book, to contact our members about this exciting endeavor. Shipmates will be receiving a postcard in the next few weeks, announcing the project and offering a toll-free number they can use to provide information about themselves for publication in the album. Shipmates who choose to participate can share details of their military career, such as branch of service, years served, medals and awards, education, work and home contact information. The publication will also include a photo gallery and members can submit one photograph for inclusion in the album.

Participation is strictly voluntary and there is no obligation for shipmates to purchase the album, even if they elect to be included in it. If you have ever participated in a yearbook project like this before, you know how much you will enjoy reading about the backgrounds of your fellow shipmates.

Harris Connect will be mailing the postcards in late February and phone lines will be available for members to call and submit their data for the yearbook in early March. Shipmates may also expect a follow-up phone call sometime in April and the books will be released in late October — just in time to order for holiday gifts.

Please be assured that our contract with Harris Connect strictly forbids the sharing of your contact information with any other organization or entity. If you have questions, please contact Penny Collins, director of Membership Development, at 1-800-FRA-1924, ext. 123 or at Penny@FRA.org.
Advance Release:

Order Your New U.S. 2015 Silver Dollars Now!

Millions of people collect the American Eagle Silver Dollar. In fact it’s been the country’s most popular Silver Dollar for over two decades. Try as they might, that makes it a very hard “secret” to keep quiet. And right now, many of those same people are lining up to secure the brand new 2015 U.S. Eagle Silver Dollars — placing their advance orders now to ensure that they get America’s newest Silver Dollar just as soon as the coins are released by the U.S. Mint in January. Today, you can graduate to the front of that line by reserving your very own 2015 American Eagle Silver Dollars — in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated condition — before millions of others beat you to it.

America’s Brand New Silver Dollar

This is a strictly limited advance release of one of the most beautiful silver coins in the world. Today you have the opportunity to secure these massive, hefty one full Troy ounce U.S. Silver Dollars in Brilliant Uncirculated condition. The nearly 100-year-old design features a walking Lady Liberty draped in a U.S. flag on one side and a majestic U.S. Eagle and shield on the other.

The Most Affordable Precious Metal—GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED

Silver is by far the most affordable of all precious metals — and each full Troy ounce American Eagle Silver Dollar is government-guaranteed for its 99.9% purity, authenticity, and legal tender status.

A Coin Flip You Can’t Afford to Lose

Why are we pre-releasing the most popular Silver Dollar in America for a remarkably affordable price? We’re doing it to introduce you to what hundreds of thousands of smart collectors and satisfied customers have known since 1984 — GovMint.com is the place to find the world’s finest coins.

Lock In Your Reservation

By calling today, you can reserve some of the very first brand new Brilliant Uncirculated 2015 American Eagle Silver Dollars ever released. Your reservation and price will be locked in, and your stunning new Silver Dollars will be shipped to you just as soon as the U.S. Mint releases the coins in January.

30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

You must be 100% satisfied with your 2015 American Eagle Silver Dollars or return them within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (less s/h). Don’t miss out on this exclusive advance release. Call immediately to secure these American Eagle Silver Dollars ahead of the crowd.


Introductory Price $18.95 ea. (LIMIT 10)

Additional 2015 Silver Eagle BU Dollars may be purchased for $19.95 each. Limited to 50 total coins per household.

For fastest service, call today toll-free

1-800-956-7267

Offer Code PEG146-03

Please mention this code when you call.
Having the right tools makes any job easier. And it can often save time and resources, too. Knowing how to use those specialty implements is also a critical element in getting the job done in the most effective manner. There are a number of resources available to help shipmates tell others about the good work FRA is doing on behalf of current and former members of the Sea Services, and this month’s feature will highlight some of those tools and offer ideas on how to use them most effectively to promote our organization.

At the most basic level, recruiting and retention are about building and maintaining relationships — with prospective members, current shipmates, people in the local community, schools, other military and veteran organizations, local business owners, media outlets and a variety of other folks and entities with whom shipmates interact on a daily basis. Relationships almost always start with a conversation, but sometimes starting the conversation about joining the FRA can be the toughest part. These tools have been designed to help start that conversation by highlighting the many benefits of FRA membership.

Look for an Opening

During our recent national convention, Shipmate Frank Gates of Branch 293 (Elizabeth City, N.C.) shared some of the techniques he uses for initiating a conversation about the FRA. A salesman by trade and
at heart, Gates looks for any indication that someone might have an affiliation with the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.

“If I see a tattoo, a bumper sticker, a hat, anything that indicates he’s potentially eligible for FRA membership, I start asking questions,” explains Gates. “What branch of service were [or are] you in? What was [or is] your occupational specialty? Where have you served?’ And depending on the answers, I ask other questions. If he’s a military retiree, I ask what he knows about the proposals to increase Tricare fees or cut COLAs. If she’s a veteran, I ask if she’s had trouble accessing VA health-care or education benefits. If they’ve got kids, I tell them about our Americanism Essay Contest or FRA’s Education Foundation and scholarship program. I try to establish a connection and then talk about the benefits of FRA membership that will be most interesting to them.”

He also keeps a stack of FRA Today magazines in his car that can be used as props when he wants to point to recent legislative developments and FRA initiatives that might be relevant to the discussion. Gates’ techniques are obviously effective. He’s brought more than 190 new or reinstated shipmates into the Association in the past four membership years!

Legislative Advocacy is #1

Whether you strike up a conversation while standing in line at the supermarket or you’re manning an information booth at a veterans’ event, it’s important to understand the value of FRA membership in order to share those benefits with others. And one of FRA’s primary benefits is our legislative advocacy for our members. When Congress starts talking about cutting military or veterans’ benefits, that’s when FRA’s work is most important.

“FRA was established in 1924 to be a legislative advocate for enlisted personnel,” says John Davis, FRA’s director of Legislative Programs. “More than 90 years later, that’s still our primary purpose — to protect and maintain the benefits our members have earned through their military service. We’ve also learned that our legislative efforts are the primary reason shipmates join the FRA and the primary reason they remain loyal members, too. Our legislative advocacy is one of the most important benefits we have to offer prospective members and, if you can show a current or former Sailor, Marine or Coast Guard member how their benefits are being threatened ... and how FRA is working to protect those benefits ... it’s a big selling point for joining our ranks.”

Tools

FRA Today: Threats to earned military and veteran benefits are real and FRA’s work in thwarting them has paid, and is paying, dividends for all current and former service members. Like Gates, Davis suggests using FRA Today as a recruiting tool by sharing the articles that highlight the latest challenges and what FRA is doing about them. Open it up and share with a prospective shipmate, and feel free to share how FRA’s legislative efforts are benefiting YOU. We’re happy to send shipmates and branches extra copies of FRA Today for use in recruiting efforts.

FRA Action Center: Is the prospective member upset about something you pointed out in the magazine? Good! Start a conversation about it and invite him to take action. Encourage prospects, shipmates, spouses and anyone else who’s interested to visit to FRA Action Center on our website and tell their elected officials how they feel! When someone uses the Action Center, even one time, they are automatically added to our distribution list for “Making Waves,” our legislative e-mail alerts that go out when a benefit threat surfaces. We can then market to these prospects and encourage them to become members. When an opportunity presents itself, we also have PowerPoint and Prezi presentations available on using the Action Center that can be delivered at your branches, reunion or other groups. The Action Center is also accessible from FRA’s mobile app, which is available at the Apple App Store or Google Apps Marketplace for Android platforms.

Other Online Resources: Our legislative work is also on display at the FRA website (www.fra.org), our Facebook page (www.fra.org/fb) and our Twitter feed (@FRAHQ). We’ve recently added a page on our website that explains what FRA is all about (www.fra.org under
We’ve all had nights when we just can’t lie down in bed and sleep, whether it’s from heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – it could be a variety of reasons. Those are the nights we’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in, one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises feet and legs to precisely the desired level, supports the head and shoulders properly, operates easily even in the dead of night, and sends a hopeful sleeper right off to dreamland.

**Our Perfect Sleep Chair® is just the chair to do it all.** It’s a chair, true – the finest of lift chairs – but this chair is so much more! It’s designed to provide total comfort and relaxation not found in other chairs. It can’t be beat for comfortable, long-term sitting, TV viewing, relaxed reclining and – yes! – peaceful sleep. Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of positions, including the Trendelenburg position and the zero gravity position where your body experiences a minimum of internal and external stresses. You’ll love the other benefits, too: It helps with correct spinal alignment, promotes back pressure relief, and encourages better posture to prevent back and muscle pain.

**And there’s more!** The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. The high and low heat settings along with the dozens of massage settings, can provide a soothing relaxation you might get at a spa – just imagine getting all that in a lift chair! Shipping charge includes white glove delivery. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! Includes one year service warranty and your choice of fabrics and colors – Call now!

**The Perfect Sleep Chair®**
Call now toll free for our lowest price.
Please mention code 48863 when ordering.

[1-877-690-3845](tel:1-877-690-3845)

**Long Lasting DuraLux Leather**
Tan Chocolate Burgundy

**DuraLux II Microfiber**
Burgundy Cashmere Fern Chocolate Indigo

© 2015 by firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.
the About FRA tab) and, thanks to the efforts of Keith Kaider of Branch 182 (Bethesda, Md.), we also have a link to a brief (less than three minutes) video that provides a great snapshot of what FRA is all about and why our work is important to all current and former enlisted Sea Service personnel. (A link to the video is available on the website under the About FRA tab.)

**Recruiting Materials**

FRA has a lot of other benefits to offer our prospective and current members, and there are lots of materials available to shipmates and branches that can help start a conversation about FRA. Some are more appropriate in specific environments, while others are more versatile, but they’re all designed to “sell” our Association as the great and beneficial product it is.

### Tools

**Prospective Member Brochure and Card:** This brochure was developed primarily for use at outreach activities, like information booths and reunions, but it can be used in one-on-one encounters, as well. The objective of this piece is to get the prospect’s contact information so we can follow up with any information they’ve requested and encourage them to become FRA shipmates. The concept is to use the brochure as a visual aid to point out the benefits of FRA membership (highlighted on the cover and interior of the brochure), offer the free information prospects can request using the business reply card (on the inside of the brochure), and get them to fill out the card — on the spot!

Even though the tear-out cards are free for prospects to send back, we very rarely get them back in the mail. Next time you’re at an outreach event, try using this brochure as a springboard for a conversation about the benefits of FRA membership. Ask the prospect to fill out the card right then and collect it from him/her. When you send the card back to FRA National Headquarters (NHQ), the prospect’s contact information is entered into our database. The cards are coded by branch and event, so we can track where the card came from and how many prospects convert to FRA shipmates. Once the information is entered into our database, their request for further information about FRA is fulfilled and a membership packet is sent to them. Included in that packet is a letter that explains FRA’s mission and the benefits of membership, and also references the FRA branch nearest to the prospect’s residence, so he/she can contact a shipmate in the local area if there are questions. NHQ then reaches out to the prospect via e-mail to again invite him/her to join our ranks. NHQ is also revising this process to ensure the local branch is advised when a prospect is identified in its geographic area, so that a more personal follow-up can be made by e-mail, letter or phone.

**Americanism Essay Contest Flyer:** FRA shipmates are a very patriotic group and that spirit of Americanism is demonstrated every year with our Americanism/Patriotism Essay Contest. This is another way that FRA benefits local communities and our nation as a whole, and the Essay Contest is also another great conversation starter. The Association provides $35,000 each year in national awards, plus additional prizes are offered at the branch and regional levels. These Essay Contest flyers are designed for distribution in local communities and include a blank area at the bottom so local branches can provide specific contact information.
Once you've established a relationship with a high school and started promoting the Essay Contest, you can also promote FRA's Education Foundation and scholarship program. Leave or post one of the Education Foundation flyers at high schools, base exchanges, commissaries, military recruiting stations, and anywhere military personnel with families might see them. These can be used to start a conversation at an outreach event, too.

Applicants must have an affiliation (either in their own right or through a parent, grandparent or spouse) with the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard to be eligible for Foundation scholarships. Those affiliated through an FRA shipmate are eligible for a broader range of scholarships, which is an added incentive for a prospect to join. REMEMBER: The deadline for scholarship applications is April 15th, so now is the perfect time to inform eligible students in your area! (See page 33 for more details.)

All of these materials are available from NHQ, using the order form that can be downloaded from our website or they can be requested by phone.

Public Relations Opportunities

Public Relations is different from advertising, in that it is essentially getting someone else to say good things about FRA ... for FREE! Many FRA events that you may take for granted are incredibly newsworthy, particularly at the local or regional level. The trick is to make sure the news media knows about them. Having a conversation and developing a relationship with your local newspaper office, radio station or on-base public affairs office can pay huge dividends in getting media coverage for the Association and your branch. Taking a few minutes to stop by, say hello and introduce yourself to the media contacts in your community can be a terrific first step in getting media attention. Once you have a name — and hopefully a face — at these media outlets, it’s much easier to direct future correspondence, phone calls and press releases to the proper department or representative.

Other Recruiting and Retention Resources

There are a number of other resources at your disposal that can be beneficial in your recruiting efforts.

Tools:

FRA Leadership: Because FRA shipmates are tremendously loyal to this organization, there are often decades-worth of corporate knowledge within each FRA branch and region. Use it! Draw on the experiences of your branch, regional and national officers when you have a question or concern. They know firsthand about the benefits of FRA membership, administrative requirements, recruiting obstacles and ways to overcome them ... and they genuinely want to help!

Your NHQ Staff: You have an entire staff of subject matter experts working on your behalf in Alexandria, Va., all of whom are anxious to be of assistance. Whether you have a question about recruiting, our legislative advocacy work, military and VA health care concerns, branch administrative practices or just need to change your address, there are folks at NHQ ready and willing to help. Your professional staff wants to be a resource for you and they’re open to any and all constructive ideas about ways we can improve our processes, procedures and tools. We want to have a conversation and strengthen a working relationship with our shipmates and others to advance the FRA mission.

The Most Important Tool of all — YOU!

By simply maintaining your FRA membership, you’re demonstrating your belief in this organization. Your FRA experience and knowledge are important instruments in the Association’s toolbox and, in the words of Ken Jeong, “You can have all the tools in the world, but if you don’t genuinely believe in yourself, they’re useless.”
Public Relations Templates: Do you know a shipmate who’s marking his/her 40th or 50th year of FRA membership? Are you interested in increasing participation in FRA’s Americanism Essay Contest or scholarship program? Great! We’ve created templates to help generate press releases that will highlight FRA shipmates and programs. They’re fill-in-the-blank forms (available on the website under the My FRA tab/Member News/Public Relations Resources) that can be mailed or e-mailed to your local news outlets. If you’re highlighting a specific branch event, it’s a good idea to send the release out beforehand and invite local news media to attend. If you send the press release out after the event, it can be helpful to include a photograph for possible inclusion with the news item. A template announcing the start of the Education Foundation scholarship season, another to promote the Essay Contest and a third to announce new branch officers are available, as well as one to announce a longevity award for a shipmate who’s dedicated decades of Loyalty, Protection and Service to the FRA. If you’ve got an idea for an additional press release template, please let us know!

Advertisement: NHQ recently developed an advertisement that was placed in the USA Today Veterans’ Day supplement and also in the program for the Army vs. Navy football game in December. The graphics for these ads, which reflect the theme used in the Prospective Member brochure and flyer, are also available for branches and shipmates to use in their local newspapers. Some newspapers may be willing to run them at no charge as a public service announcement (PSA), or they may offer a discounted advertising fee for non-profit organizations like ours. A high-resolution, digital version of the ad is also available online (at www.fra.org under the My FRA tab/Member News/Public Relations Resources).

In Search of coworkers of Navy Veteran, DARRYL DUGAS who was on the Corrosion Check Crew with the VA-15 Attack Squadron, stationed at Cecil Field & aboard the Franklin D. Roosevelt 1968-1972

We are also searching for ANYONE who worked on the A-7 Corsair II Jets

Please contact Dianne Lawe at 1-800-723-3216 Ext 422 dianne.lawe@lanierlawfirm.com
We’re working to develop other promotional materials that can be used in your local area and welcome suggestions for products that would be helpful to your branch. Please contact Will Kohudic, our Marketing Manager, at williamk@fra.org or 1-800-FRA-1924, ext 124, to offer your suggestions or get further details.

Also read this month’s “Membership Matters” column on page 16 for other ways FRA branches and shipmates are spreading the good word about FRA through unique public relations avenues.

Closing the Deal

Once you’ve established a connection with a prospective member — whether on an individual basis or through a broader channel, like an ad or news article — you can ask him or her to consider joining the FRA. Any time you extend such an invitation, you should be prepared to answer the questions they are likely to ask: Why should I join? What benefits do I get for my annual membership fee? Why are you a member?

Many of the tools discussed in this article reference some of the value propositions for FRA membership, i.e., our legislative advocacy efforts to protect and enhance earned military and veteran benefits; updates in FRA Today and on our website about those continuing threats and the use of our online Action Center to join FRA’s grassroots fight against those threats; our Education Foundation and scholarship program, and the Americanism Essay Contest, to name a few. There are also other intangible benefits, such as the camaraderie with fellow shipmates and opportunities to participate in community service projects and events.

There’s a lot of value in FRA membership and if shipmates can talk from the heart about the many FRA benefits, it’s easier to recruit new members. Helping prospective shipmates understand what FRA is, how our work can help him/her and why you believe membership is important can go a long way in encouraging them to join our efforts. Think about the reasons you joined FRA and why you maintain your membership. Sharing your personal and heartfelt commitment to the Association is the most powerful endorsement of all!

The FRA Toolbox is a Work in Progress

The tools discussed in this article are really just the tip of the iceberg with regard to promoting the Association and growing our membership. Your NHQ staff is pursuing new initiatives to enhance FRA’s image, including consultations with our affinity partners’ marketing departments, funding in the budget to provide more focused marketing efforts and a variety of engagements to establish and strengthen relationships with national entities that will benefit the Association.

We’re taking a slightly different approach to our recruiting and marketing efforts, and look forward to working with all our shipmates to increase our membership base. Your NHQ staff invites all shipmates to take ownership in these initiatives and provide us with constructive feedback and ideas on how we can help our members be successful in their efforts to strengthen the FRA.

Please let us know:

What tools and resources have worked well for you in the past year?

What additional benefits would you suggest we make available to our members?

What other tools and resources would help you to promote the FRA in your local community?

Share your thoughts and ideas with Penny Collins, FRA’s director of Membership and Retention, at penny@fra.org or 1-800-FRA-1924, ext 123.
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for NHQ Office Building

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014, distinguished guests, members and staff gathered at FRA’s National Headquarters (NHQ) in Alexandria, Va., to commemorate the completion of the building’s renovation process (or “yard period”). It was a chilly autumn morning, so guests first gathered in the gleaming new conference room where FRA’s National Executive Director (NED) Tom Snee opened the ceremonies. He noted that this renovation is just the latest in a long line of capital improvements FRA has made in its 90 years of existence, as its administrative operations moved from Philadelphia to downtown Washington, D.C., to its present location in Alexandria.

Snee emphasized that although FRA’s infrastructure has changed, our mission and spirit have not. “We are keeping up with the times and the technology to continue to provide the best service possible to our members and to our nation’s military personnel and veterans,” Snee said. “Through the months of construction, our focus has been, first and foremost, on the needs of our shipmates.”

Several honored guests were recognized individually or in groups. Attending from the active duty military ranks were LCDR Bill Dorwant, USN; LTCOL William Mitchell, USA; Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve C. J. Mitchell, and Command Master Chief Terence Vanderwerf (USCG). Leaders from other national service groups included Rick Jones of the National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS), Bill Rausch of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA) and Julie Sharp, national president of the Navy Wives Club of America (NWCA). Coe Ames of Rand Builders, the company that oversaw the building renovation, was also on hand for the festivities.

FRA national and regional leaders present included National President (NP) John Ippert, National Vice President Roger Mitchell, National Executive Director Emeritus Joe Barnes, East Coast Regional President J. J. Willis and East Coast Regional Vice President Penny Collins. Also in attendance from the Auxiliary of the FRA were NP Doris Fri, Past NP (PNP) Doreen Huylebroeck, National Treasurer Karen Snee, East Coast Regional President Toni O’Neil and North Central Regional Vice President Ginny Bowers. Many members of the FRA staff were also on hand to take part in the ceremony.

NP Ippert said that he was pleased after making his “in-service inspection” and closed his remarks by saying, “It’s not the brick and mortar that make the building, but the muscle and mettle. Proceed!”

The building opening was made official with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the front doors, with past and present leaders doing the honors. Although FRA PNP Bill Combs (who initially cut the ribbon 23 years ago when the building was purchased in 1991) could not attend, Auxiliary PNP Huylebroeck was on hand to represent that time when we first opened the doors.
Your watch shouldn’t cost more than your car. It should look and feel like a power tool and not a piece of bling. Wearing it shouldn’t make you think twice about swinging a hammer or changing a tire. A real man’s time-piece needs to be ready for anything. But that’s just my opinion. If you agree, maybe you’re ready for the Stauer Centurion Hybrid. Use your Exclusive Insider Promotional Code below and I’ll send it to you today for ONLY $59.

This watch doesn’t do dainty. And neither do I. Call me old-fashioned, but I want my boots to be leather, my tires to be deep-tread monsters, and my steak thick and rare. Inspiration for a man’s watch should come from things like fast cars, firefighters and power tools. And if you want to talk beauty, then let’s discuss a 428 cubic inch V8.

Did I mention the $59 price tag? This is a LOT of machine for not a lot of money. The Stauer Centurion Hybrid sports a heavy-duty alloy body, chromed and detailed with a rotating bezel that allows you to track direction. The luminous hour and minute hands mean you can keep working into the night. And the dual digital displays give this watch a hybrid ability. The LCD windows displays the time, day and date, includes a stopwatch function, and features a bright green electro-luminescent backlight. We previously offered the Centurion for $199, but with the exclusive promotional code it’s yours for ONLY $59!

No matter what, this watch can keep up. Thanks to the Stauer 30-day Money Back Guarantee, you’ve got time to prove it. If you’re not totally satisfied, return it for a full refund of the purchase price. You also get a 2-year replacement guarantee on both movements. But I have a feeling the only problem you’ll have is deciding whether to keep the Stauer Centurion on your dresser or tucked inside your toolbox.

“Work in the surveying and construction industry... This is my work horse watch and I am proud to wear it.”
— C.S. from Fort Worth, TX

Stauer Centurion Hybrid Watch— $199
Promotional Code Price Only $59

or two payments of $29.50 + S&P
Order now to take advantage of this fantastic low price.
1-800-333-2057

Stauer®
14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. CNW345-03
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™
FRA Operation Flagship Refit Deck Log Update

The Deck Log salutes those who contributed to the improvement of the FRA Museum Refit since the Deck Log’s last publication in the October issue of FRA Today. Your generosity and dedication will help to realize the vision of an association museum that truly pays tribute to the spirit of Loyalty, Protection and Service that characterizes our shipmates.

**Museum Refit Recognition Plaque**
$500 (or more)
Wayne J. Dietel

**Flagship Crew**
$250 (or more)
John W. Partin II

**Commissioning Crew**
$100 (or more)
Conrad W. Hemmingway
Harold S. Watson, Jr.

**Plankowner**
$25 (or more)
Robert L. Adams
Jack D. Brown
John M. Bunting
William C. Kempner
William J. Lare
Ronald B. Littlejohn
Francis E. Warren

The FRA Museum used to be located on the third floor of the NHQ building and was too full to accommodate some of our most impressive artifacts. As part of the recent capital improvements, selected artifacts will be displayed with more forethought and care. The museum will be a living display of FRA Loyalty, Protection and Service and will evolve over the coming months and years.
Why the Jacuzzi® Hydrotherapy Walk-In Tub is the Best…

- **Easy and Safe Entry** - Low entry, double sealing leak-proof door that is easy to open and close.
- **Durable and Easy to Clean** - State-of-the-art acrylic surface.
- **Comfortable Seating** - Convenient 17 inch raised seat.
- **Worry Free Enjoyment** - Thanks to Jacuzzi’s Limited Lifetime Warranty.
- **Maximum Pain Relief** - Therapeutic water AND air jets to help you feel your best.
- **Relax Fully** - All controls are within easy reach.
- **Personalized Massage** - New adjustable jet placement for pinpoint control. 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.
- **No Hassle Installation** - Designed to fit in your existing tub space.

For your FREE special report and details on a FREE $200 gift

**Call Toll-Free Today**

1-844-652-1122

Please mention promotional code 59729

$1000 OFF

when you mention this ad

for a limited time only

Call Us Toll Free 1-844-652-1122
**TAPS In Memoriam**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BRANCH</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BRANCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adamich, Frank B, YNC, USN</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Larrowe, Lloyd M, HMC, USN</td>
<td>029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen, Robert, SKCS, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Loyola, Leonardo Y, PO1, USN</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrade, Rosendo D, SDC, USN</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>Mason, Daniel B, DPC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldonado, Nicasio L, SD2, USN</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>McCabe, Edward J, RMC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bienkowski, Chester C, ENCM, USN</td>
<td>008</td>
<td>McConahey, Harold L, EMPC, USN</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanchard, Argie L, ADRC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>McKenzie, Harry A, BMC, USN</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bledsoe, Gerald E, OM1 (SS), USN</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>Mione, Vincent A, YN2, USN</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blind, Clifford L, HMCS, USN</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>Moses, James W, CTRC, USN</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bordner, Richard E, OS1, USN</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>Nardo, Joe, COL, USM</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brignola, Robert A, BTC, USN</td>
<td>040</td>
<td>Nelson, Vernon, CTCS, USN</td>
<td>022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks, Henry H, AO2, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Nonato, Inocencio N, SD2, USN</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnett, John J, EN1, USN</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>Norris, Jesse J, ETC, USN</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabuang, Ponciano, PO3, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Quinsaat, Jose, YNCS, USN</td>
<td>084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassidy, William S, ASCS, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Quintanilla, Amado R, MSC, USN</td>
<td>084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castro, Roberto M, PO1, USN</td>
<td>084</td>
<td>Ramsay, Richard T, HMC, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaykovsky, Joseph M, BMC, USN</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>Ramsden, Harry D, ETCM, USN</td>
<td>086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody, J B, GYSGT, USM, MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>PRPNW, Robbins, Benedict A, ADJC, USN</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruz, Jose C, MS 1ST, USN</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>Robinson, Don G, PO1, USN</td>
<td>018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson, George, LCDR, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Robinson, Glenn A, HMC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean, Thomas E, BM1, USN</td>
<td>061</td>
<td>Ross, Edward, SG, USM, 212</td>
<td>021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delacey, George R, SF1, USN</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Sanders, Jack L, AFCM, USN</td>
<td>070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dempsey, Philip C, SKCN, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Schaffer, Samuel C, MMCM, USN</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeSimone, John A, CTCS, USN</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>Skulsky, Walter J, ADRC, USN</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dvorak, Edward P, GMGC, USN</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>Skypala, Richard L, SKC, USN</td>
<td>055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eidem, Douglas C, HM3, USN</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Slaven, Edmond K, LDCR, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder, Edward J, SHCS, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Smith, Gerald O, QMC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallon, James A, AFCM, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Smith, Donald E, ADRC, USN</td>
<td>049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford, Roy Sr, ADJC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Smyly, James M, EQCM, USN</td>
<td>034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortson, Frank S, LCDR, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Stewart, Michael D, AE1, USN</td>
<td>034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallagher, Larry J, ACCS, USN</td>
<td>093</td>
<td>Tamayo, Phillips, CPO, USN</td>
<td>084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambone, Ralph F, MUCM, USN</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>Taylor, Duane A, RMC, USN</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gill, Fred B, SR, USN</td>
<td>086</td>
<td>Teal, Edward F, AEC, USN</td>
<td>049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurney, Donald Richard, ATC/retired, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Thiedke, Raymond E, AFCM, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanson-Smith, T J, CW04, USNR</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>Thornton, Daniel R, CSC/CPO, USN</td>
<td>042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harle, Richard E, SKCS, USC</td>
<td>090</td>
<td>Trower, Ross H, HON Member, RADM, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartman, Jack E, DTC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Tweet, Vernon S, AECS, USN</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hershberger, Dwight C, DT1, USN</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Vanderploeg, Edwin, ETC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hetrick, Mark, BMCS(SW), USN</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>Warkentin, John W, POCS, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinke, Richard C, PNCM, USN</td>
<td>006</td>
<td>Webb, Merle E, AMS1, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinson, James L, AECS, USN</td>
<td>091</td>
<td>Williams, Robert A, SM1, USN</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollatz, Lavern E, CS1, USN</td>
<td>090</td>
<td>Wood, Kenneth E, YNC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Cecil C, ABH1, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Wright, Charles D, BMCS, USN</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashuda, Edward J, ACC, USN</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Zimmer, Mitchell, TMC(SW), USN</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly, Joseph J, FN, USN</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>Names in red indicate 50 year continuous members.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy, Arthur W, ACC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kroger, Dale L, RMC, USN</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lachat, Willis E, AD1, USN</td>
<td>068</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The toll of the ship’s bell reminds us of the reverence we owe to our departed Shipmates and to those who guard the honor of our country, upon the sea, under the sea, in the air and upon foreign soil. Let it be a reminder of the faith they confide in us.*

*Let us who gather here not forget our obligations and in silence breathe a prayer for our absent Shipmates.*

**1-15 Taps Correction**

In the October issue of FRA Today, we noted the passing of MMC/CAPT James H. Ansley (Branch 46, Honolulu, Hawaii) in error. The Taps notice should have referenced GMTCS James H. Ansley, Jr., of Branch 89 (Atlanta, Ga.). We apologize for the error and regret any confusion it may have caused.
Leave a legacy that follows your rules.

Your legacy isn’t just about money. It’s also about values.

When the time comes to consider how your heirs will benefit from your life’s work, choose a financial services provider that understands and shares your values: USAA. With USAA, you have access to annuities, charitable giving plans and more.

Schedule your free consultation with a USAA advisor today.

usaa.com/fra | 877-372-8722

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies.

Financial planning services and financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Company in California, Lic. # 0E36312), a registered investment advisor and insurance agency, and its wholly owned subsidiary, USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker dealer. Life insurance annuities provided by USAA Life Insurance Company of New York, Highland Falls, NY. All insurance products are subject to state availability, issue limitations and contractual terms and conditions. FRA receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2014 USAA. 205403-0714
HMM-265 Squadron Reunion
1962-Present
November 8–15, 2015, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact Tim Bastyr, Holland American Lines, 603-364-5761, tmb2sdb@numail.org

US Naval Nuclear Power Unit
May 4–9, 2015, Goshen, NY. Contact Bob Berkowitz, 26 Colony Drive, Monroe, NY 10950, 845-782-5539, fixitbob3@optonline.net

USS Gen. H. W. Butner (AP 113)
April 23–25, 2015, Wabash, IN. Contact Clifford Horn, 2170 Lowell Ave., Louisville, KY 40205, 502-451-8211, cliffordahorn@att.net

WO Donald F. Hough
I worked for him from 1967 to 1969. Please contact YNC James Thomasson (Ret.) at 417-286-3166 or jmthomasson@missouricom.com

This Navy Chief:

The TV series “Who Do You Think You Are?” is trying to identify the man in this photograph. He was a Chief Commissaryman in the U.S. Navy who served in Sydney, Australia, during WWII. If you have any information, please contact Christian at Christian@artemisfilms.com

EM2 Larry Hansen
He was last seen on an MSO in Long Beach, Calif., 1959. Please contact EM1 Earl Jones (Ret.) at 402-926-2648 or NIFT50@aol.com

EMC Jackie Boswell
He served aboard USS Princeton (LPH-5), Long Beach, Calif., 1969. Please contact EM1 Earl Jones (Ret.) at 402-926-2648 or NIFT50@aol.com

Paul Messinger, Wayne Patrick and Verel Polson
Messinger and Patrick were CTs stationed at the Pentagon in the late 1960s. Polson was a YN stationed at the Bureau of Naval Personnel during the same time period. My late wife Carol and I were very good friends with them and their families in the 1965–1968 time frame. Please call or write John E. Adams, NCC (Ret.) at 913-773-5749 or 23878 Mt. Olivet Rd, Easton, KS 66020.

Captain Walter “Bud” Krause
He was on the COM Cruise, DES Supply in the 1940s. Contact Raymond Souza at 53 Eleanor St., N., Dartmouth, MA 02747-1924 or 508-996-6394.

SEABEES stationed in Ireland, Scotland and NMCB 62
See our website www.nmcb62alumni.org for reunion information or contact Norm Hahn, NMCB 62 Alumni Group secretary, at normhahnjr@yahoo.com

USS Mullinnix (DD-944)
April 29–May 3, 2015, Nashville, TN. Contact Bob Houghton, 1144 Barfield Street, Charleston, SC 29492, 302-650-3042, muxassn@hotmail.com

VQ-1,2,5,6 and NSG Support
September 17–20, 2015, Long Beach, CA. Contact Mike Chicvara, 17615 N 131st Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375, 480-313-4661, amcsrel@cox.net

VS-21 (circa 1955–1965)
September 27–October 1, 2015, San Diego, CA. Contact Jeff Weisel, 117 Little Oaks Rd., Encinitas, CA 92024, 760-612-4376, jsweisel@yahoo.com

Looking for…

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

These notices are published on a space-available basis. Notices must be submitted in writing. E-mail fratoday@fra.org or mail your request to: FRA, Looking for…, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314.
FRA's Education Foundation awards over $100,000 in scholarship funds each year to recipients based on financial need, academic standing, character and leadership qualities. Our scholarship program is open to anyone who has an affiliation with the USN, USMC or USCG, through their own service or that of a spouse, parent or grandparent.

To learn more about the FRA Education Foundation and our scholarships, visit www.fra.org/foundation where you will find descriptions of each scholarship program, lists of past winners and, starting in September of each year, applications for the current year's programs. We encourage all eligible recipients to apply for our scholarships and to share information about them with others.

Questions?
E-mail us at scholars@fra.org or call 703-683-1400.

DEADLINE:
April 15th

Who needs money for college?
BRANCH 244  GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.
Shipmate Leroy Kenner was recognized for his 40 years of continuous FRA membership; Shipmate Claire Veech received his 30-year membership pin and Shipmate Bud Johnson was honored for his 20 years of Loyalty, Protection and Service.

BRANCH 136  MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
Then-National President Virgil Courneya presents a 50-year pin and certificate to Shipmate Kenneth Smith at the North Central Regional Convention, in Rochester, Minn. Pictured (l to r) are Shipmate Smith; Branch Secretary Gary Miller, Branch President Tom Dooley, NP Courneya and Branch Vice President Gene Jarnagin.

BRANCH 117  ORLANDO, FLA.
Branch President Jim Middlekauff and members of the branch presents Shipmate Robert Petersen his 40-year membership certificate and pin. Shipmate Petersen has been in the VA nursing facility since the 1970s.

BRANCH 293  ELIZABETH CITY, S.C.
Shipmate Frank Gates receives a $200 check in lieu of Life Membership for recruiting more than 32 members for the third straight year. Shown (l to r) are Branch Vice President Dale Wright, Branch Secretary/Treasurer Darrell McKinley, Branch President Robert Oliveira, and Shipmate Gates.

BRANCH 87  BEDFORD, PA.
Branch Secretary Gary W. Simmons stands beside Sierra Stern, 2014 graduate of Central High School in Martinsburg. Sierra took first place in the FRA Americanism Essay Contest at her school, took first place honors in the Northeast/New England Region and placed third in the nation.
To submit a photo for News from the Branches, please e-mail a photo as an attachment in jpeg format to FRAToday@fma.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 National Vice President

I WANT TO THANK all the members of the LA FRA for electing me to the office of National Vice President. I am very humbled by the faith you have expressed in my abilities and the confidence you have entrusted in me. I pledge to do my very best to represent the Auxiliary and support all efforts of both the FRA and LA FRA. I look forward to working with all the newly-elected Regional Vice Presidents on increasing our membership this year. For this year, my Membership Project objective is:

EACH ONE, REACH ONE

We have new units forming and being instituted each year and, with the new guidelines in place for the number of members required to form a new unit, I expect this trend will continue. This change in size requirements for new units and their formation will also help us to retain existing members, since some may transfer to a new unit that may be more convenient for them, and enable them to attend more unit functions.

In order for us to grow, we will have to accomplish more in the recruitment of new members. I challenge each member of our great organization to recruit one new member or reinstate a suspended member in the coming year. If we were fortunate enough to be able to have each member recruit one new member, our organization would double in size. But realistically, any portion of our membership that could recruit at least one new member would greatly help our organization to grow. In addition, if each member would keep in touch with other unit members and help to reinstate those who have let their membership lapse, we could keep our numbers strong.

We currently have some members who are outstanding at recruiting new members, as you can see by their receipt of awards for their efforts. But these few cannot carry the entire organization. So I ask each of you to consider where you might find a new member. Check with other organizations, VFW, American Legion, etc., to see if potential members exist there. Attend civic functions with local municipalities; you may be surprised how many potential members may be encountered at a City Board meeting or a gathering of the local police force or fire department personnel. If you have the good fortune to live near a military base, make contact with the base Commanding Officer or Senior Enlisted Advisor.

Wherever you can be seen in public, always make sure you identify our organization and always make sure you have a couple of membership applications with you, already filled out and ready for our next new member to sign and join this wonderful organization. Please send me any other ideas or methods you use in recruiting, so that I may share them with our members. Good luck in all of your recruiting efforts!
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 VFW, DAV, American Legion
and the Fleet Reserve
Former National President of the Retired Enlisted Association
and client of The Johnson Law Firm.

The Johnson Law Firm
CALL NOW! 1-888-MESO-HELP TOLL FREE
1-888-637-6435

“Nationwide legal representation of mesothelioma and lung cancer victims”
In home and local appointments available nationwide by appointment only. Principal office Fort Worth, TX.
Past successes cannot be an assurance of future successes since each case is decided on its own merits.