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FRA *today*

The magazine of the Fleet Reserve Association

JANUARY 2020

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COVER: Petty Officer 2nd Class Andre Elizondo, a cryptologic technician (technical) from San Diego, tracks the position of the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship *USS JOHN P. MURTHA* (LPD-26) in the ship's command control center. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Carlstrom, mass communication specialist.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexis Maldonado, a cryptologic technician (technical) from Mays Landing, New Jersey, left, and Petty Officer 1st Class James McKinley, cryptologic technician (technical), stand watch in the combat information center of the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS MILIUS* (DDG-69). Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Taylor DiMartino, mass communication specialist.

Features

16 Cryptologic Technicians of the Navy

Three former cryptologic technicians look back on how the rate and the technology has changed over the past six decades. The jobs performed by cryptographers (QCR) were done by sailors selected from several ratings such as radiomen, yeomen, electronic technicians and others. Those QCRs were eventually organized into one unit called the Naval Security Group.

26 The Real NCIS: From Quantico to Hollywood

Ever since the 1950s, the use of civilian special agents to handle both criminal and counter-intelligence responsibilities in the Office of Naval Intelligence had grown. In the 1970s, the Naval Investigative Services was created as a separate entity within ONI.



LOYALTY, PROTECTION AND SERVICE

The FRA is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization advocating on Capitol Hill for current and former enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

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40 Years Ago This Month, the BLACKTHORN Accident Improved USCG Training Forever

The past few years have seen some collisions between Navy vessels and other ships, resulting in policy changes being put into place. Following the *USS McCain* and the *USS FITZGERALD* accidents, command changes were also made.

Any accident or collision is not what our Navy wants, but they must and did respond. One incident for the U.S. Coast Guard that comes to mind is the *USCG BLACKTHORN*, a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender (WLB). The *BLACKTHORN* was assigned to the Great Lakes as an icebreaker. The ship then went to San Pedro, Calif. for several years before going to the Gulf Coast region to serve Mobile, Alabama, then Galveston, Texas. The ship underwent a major overhaul in Tampa, Florida, from 1979 to 1980, and was then outward-bound from Tampa Bay on the evening of Jan. 28, 1980.

The tanker *CAPRICORN* was heading into the bay with the captain on the bridge and a junior officer had the conn. The *BLACKTHORN* had just been overtaken by the Russian passenger ship *KAZAKHSTAN* and continued almost in mid-channel. The passenger ship had blocked the view of the crews of the *BLACKTHORN* and the *CAPRICORN*.

The *CAPRICORN* began to turn left, which did not allow the ships to pass port-to-port. They were not able to make radio contact with the buoy tender, so the *CAPRICORN*'s pilot blew two short whistle blasts to indicate the two ships would pass starboard-to-starboard.

The junior officer of the deck was confused about the standard operating procedure, so *BLACKTHORN*'s captain issued evasive action. The collision was imminent but major damage was not expected. However, the *CAPRICORN*'s anchor was ready for letting go and it became embedded in the buoy tender's hull and ripped open the port side.

Seconds after the slack in the anchor chain became taut, *BLACKTHORN* capsized. Six off-duty personnel who had mustered when they heard the collision alarm were trapped in the skin of the ship. Several crew members who had just reported aboard tried to escape and became trapped in the engine room. Even though 27 crewmen survived the collision, 23 perished.

The *BLACKTHORN* collision led to the establishment of the Command and Operations School at the Coast Guard Leadership Development Center in New London, Connecticut. The school offers courses to prepare command-level officers and senior enlisted members for command duty afloat. The Coast Guard also developed new training requirements, invested in more safety equipment and made changes to the navigational aids in and around the Tampa Bay. This is what the outcome can and should be, in order to move ahead knowing how to better handle any situation in the future. **FRA**

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,
William D. Stevenson, Editor-in-Chief



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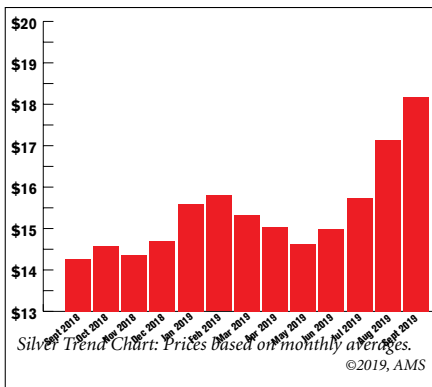
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In 2019, silver prices saw a significant increase. Between Sept 2018 and Sept 2019, silver values increased by 25%! No one can say for sure what the future holds, but these freshly struck, 99.9% pure U.S. Silver Dollars are finally available — meaning the time to buy is NOW!



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Being a Good Steward



Donna Jansky
National President

Shipmates, I have something funny to relate to you that happened to me — I am sure it has happened to all of us in some way. Every month, I receive *FRAtoday* and I skim through it that first day. Then, I take my magazine to work and throughout the month when I have a few free minutes, I glance through it again and read some of the articles. I certainly do not go through page by page, but I do eventually get through the magazine. I only tell you all this because this past July, as the passdown from PNP Bob Washington began, I was asked if I could write six articles during my term. I have been reading this magazine since 1992 and have read many national president's articles, but for some reason, it never occurred

It never occurred to me that one of the duties of president is to write articles for the magazine.

to me that one of the duties of president is to write articles for the magazine. Nevertheless, of course that is one of the duties!

Now, I am not telling you this to complain, or gripe, or to somehow belittle anyone. It is just an example of how much is routinely done on a daily basis by FRA leadership and may be taken for granted. The responsibilities of leadership need to be passed on to those new volunteers who are coming into their new leadership positions.

I am grateful that I was able to visit HQ ahead of time and learn that I would have to write six articles before this first deadline was upon me. Shipmates taking branch and regional positions also need to know what needs to be done. It is part of mentoring — of being a good steward of the FRA.

So many of our branches struggle to develop relationships, get interaction and execute their tasks properly. Branches should not be run by only a few. Shipmates need to be comfortable enough to take reasonable risks when they communicate, take actions and accept these stewardship positions.



The installation of the new FRA Board and stewards at the national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, this past year.

Shipmates do not want to be chastised for disagreeing; disagreement is expected and should be appreciated. If you are a branch president, one of your responsibilities is to support the development of your Shipmates in the process of branch business. This does not mean always agreeing but certainly staying on an even keel.

The Auxiliary of the FRA

We are all in this together! Auxiliary members have earned their eligibility by having a relative who was in the sea services. With more than 5,000 members, they volunteer thousands of hours to help you. They raise funds for special projects and organize charitable events. They assist us with our legislative efforts, volunteer at VA hospitals, conduct patriotic programs and offer scholarships. They are the backbone of the FRA. Please consider helping them by signing up a family member to the auxiliary. If you do not have an auxiliary right now, think about starting one. **FRA**

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Donna M. Jansky, AMSC USNR (Ret.)

Donna is national president of the Fleet Reserve Association and may be reached by email at: janskyd@comcast.net

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VA Disability and SSDI claims

I just received my November issue of *FRAtoday* in the mail and quickly began to read. However to my surprise the article regarding VA Disability and SSDI claims has some bad information regarding VA disability compensation claims. It states, “the VA will review your military medical records. Any outside medical records will not be considered to determine if you are disabled.” This is bad information to our disabled veterans. The VA reviews military, Veterans Health Administration, and private medical records. The veteran must provide these private or “outside” medical records or give VA permission to retrieve them from the physician’s office to use them as evidence in a disability claim. Also, the writer neglects to say that the FRA provides assistance to Veterans in filing a disability compensation claim. We as veterans receive so much wrong information, we need to make sure that we are putting the best information out we can, as to ensure the benefits are awarded as they are deserved.

Please put this in the *FRAtoday*’s Shipmate Forum and urge any and all veterans in need of VBA assistance to reach out to the FRA or other accredited VSO.

*Very respectfully,
Peter A. Hawkins, AE1(AW) USN
(Honorably Discharged Veteran)*

BenFed Not Paying My Bills

I just read the article about the BenFeds Plan. I ran into the same issues with an eye care service provider in Rochester, New Hampshire. The place would not accept the BenFed program because they were having trouble getting paid. They want me to pay the bill and send the bill to the company for payment myself. I called Martin’s Point about the problem and they are still handling dental and vision, but the government needs to provide the benefits to the military that the military worked for as promised. I still have not been paid the money that was taken out of my retired pay that the VA owes me.

*Thank You,
SKCS Gerald H. Marsh, retired, 24 years 8 months*

All Hands, Use the Action Center

In the October *FRAtoday*, AZ1 Phillips wrote about cuts to military benefits. In his letter he stated “I have no input on [how cuts are determined].” We all have a voice through sending comments to Senators and Congresspersons. The FRA makes that task easy by using

the FRA Action Center. It does not sound like much but if a high number of people would use this, then the people in Washington would listen.

John Leek, SH2 PO2, Santa Clara Branch 101

Pearl Harbor and the King

I just got my December issue of *FRAtoday* and read the story about Pearl Harbor. Why was there not any mention of the effort that Elvis Presley contributed in donating time and money for the Arizona Memorial?

*Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Donald G. Frazier, PO1 USN (Ret.)*

FRAtoday: The Boots Randolph and Elvis Presley show on March 25, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii raised nearly \$65,000 for the USS Arizona Memorial building fund. This show created one of the biggest private donations to the memorial.

TRICARE Co-payment Changes for 2020

I received a letter from TRICARE Express Scripts listing the price changes for my medications this year. I enlisted in the Navy June 9, 1948, and retired after 20 years in 1968. What ever happened to all the promises regarding free health care for us veterans? Why are military retirees being discriminated against because we must pay co-payment fees just because we do not live near a military pharmacy at a base? If you live near a base, there is no charge for the medications you need.

Respectfully, Jerry Kaschak, USN (Ret.)

FRAtoday: TRICARE costs have indeed been changed this year. By law, TRICARE fees go up slightly every year. For retirees, the cost bump is tied to the annual cost of living increase (COLA). Some of the other fee increases are set ahead of time by Congress, such as the letter you received stating the co-payment fees for 2020 were set by the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2018. Here is a link to an article that outlines the specifics: www.military.com/daily-news/2019/12/02/tricare-costs-changing-2020.html.

Submit letters to *FRAtoday*, 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314 or to fratoday@fra.org. Please include Shipmate Forum in the subject line. The FRA reserves the right to select and edit letters for publication. Letters published in Shipmate Forum reflect the opinions and views of individual FRA members. They do not necessarily reflect the official position of the FRA as a whole. The FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content.

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ON & OFF *capitol hill*

News & Notes **L** *from the Fleet Reserve Association's Legislative Team*



John Davis
Director Legislative Programs

Delayed Spending Bills and NDAA Will Impact Military

As you get this issue of *FRAtoday*, the second year of the 116th Congress will be starting. It's a presidential election year with one-third of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives up for re-election. Further, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is holding an impeachment inquiry. Hopefully, Congress has passed an omnibus spending bill and also passed the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act. Congress is supposed to enact appropriations and the annual NDAA before Oct. 1. In all but four of the past 40 years, Congress has passed

continuing resolutions to keep agencies running between budgets.

The Pentagon has informed Congress that passing CRs rather than the spending bills will disrupt various programs. The Navy disruptions would include operational and maintenance funding shortfalls that would curtail the availability of 14 ships, cancel deployed ship training and shut down non-deployed carrier air wing and expeditionary squadrons. Further, the Navy could also see delayed delivery of one Virginia-class fast attack submarine, one fleet ocean tug and two landing craft utility vessels.

The FRA Participates in House Speaker's Veterans Roundtable

Director of Legislative Programs John Davis participated in a veteran and military service organization roundtable discussion of pending issues with House Democrats. The Capitol Hill event was hosted by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano (Calif.). Other legislators in attendance included Reps. Gil Cisneros (Calif.), Mike Levin (Calif.), Julia Brownley (Calif.) Susan Lee (N.V.), Elaine Luria (Va.), Debra Wasserman Schultz (Fla.), Joe Cunningham (S.C.) and Donald Norcross (N.J.).

Speaker Pelosi noted that the House had just recently passed nine veterans bills, including the Debra Sampson Act (H.R.3224) while expressing concern about veteran' suicide rates. In closing, she expressed opposition to any effort to privatize the VA.

The group of military service organizations

thanked Chairman Takano for his efforts to pass the Agent Orange Blue Water Navy Bill (H.R.299) and thanked the committee for holding hearings to ensure prompt implementation of the act.

The FRA issues that were shared were expanding concurrent receipt, opposing the "skinny" NDAA and ensuring timely implementation of the Agent Orange Blue Water Navy law. Other issues discussed included veteran suicides, women veterans' issues, SBP/DIC offset repeal, veteran homelessness and the GI Bill housing payments backlog. Rep. Wasserman Schultz, chair of the House Appropriations Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, discussed how the MilCon/VA Appropriations Bill passed the House unanimously and has now stalled in the Senate.

NewsBytes is the FRA's weekly legislative update. If you would like to subscribe, please email: NewsBytes@Fra.org. Include your name and contact information in the body of the email. If you are a member of the FRA or LA FRA, please include your member number.

The DOD Expands Access to the Commissary, MWR and Exchange

The Department of Defense has expanded commissary, military exchange, and morale, welfare and recreation retail privileges on U.S. military installations as required by the FY2019 Defense Authorization Act. Starting Jan. 1, access has been expanded to include all veterans with service-connected disabilities, veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, veterans who are former prisoners of war and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program for Family Caregivers. While this expansion will extend eligibility to more than 4.1 million new patrons, the DOD expects little to no impact on current patrons in most locations. There may be some impact in areas with a high cost of living, but the DOD is preparing to accommodate all new patrons.

New patrons now eligible by the act should be aware that the law requires that the DOD charge them a small user fee to offset the increased expense incurred by the Department of the Treasury for processing commercial credit or debit cards used for purchases at commissary stores.

The DOD is finalizing the details for these new privileges with the VA, Homeland Security and the Treasury. Information will be announced soon regarding installation access and the authentication process for these privileges. To learn more about the commissary, military exchange and MWR expansion, visit <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-fact-sheet.pdf>.

The FRA Speaks About Suicide Prevention at Capitol Hill Meeting



(L to R) Dr. Keita Franklin, Chief Clinical Officer, Psych Hub; Conner Jobes, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; Torrie Osterholm, Director of Psychological Health, D.C. National Guard; FRA NED Chris Slawinski; Capt. Bob Carey, USN (Ret.), Chief Advocacy Officer, The Independence Fund.

NED Chris Slawinski (second from left) was one of four featured speakers at the Veteran and Service Member Suicide Prevention roundtable discussion on Capitol Hill that was sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. It was noted during the meeting that suicide is the second leading cause of death for Americans ages 15 to 34. Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, and on average, 129 Americans die by suicide each day. Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide than civilians.

Speaking before a room of mostly Capitol Hill staffers, Slawinski spoke from a personal perspective as a veteran service officer. He shared a particular story of being on the telephone with the wife of a Vietnam veteran who was diagnosed with PTSD. The veteran was considering suicide and it was the intervention of his spouse, along with Slawinski, that helped the veteran get assistance.

One of the speakers was Psych Hub Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Keita Franklin, who acknowledged suicide is a "very complex issue" and noted that triggers for thoughts of suicide often include failed relationships, substance abuse and legal troubles. Franklin stressed that one of the most productive steps that can be taken is to reduce the stigma that surrounds suicide. She said, "this mental health literacy" is important in bringing the issue of suicide out into the open. Chief Advocacy Officer of The Independence Fund Bob Carey spoke of current legislation that intends to ensure that those seeking help are able to receive it. Director of Psychological Health for the District of Columbia National Guard Torrie Osterholm encouraged everyone to take a moment and ask, "How can I help?"

Oversight of Agent Orange Law Implementation

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing on the efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement the Agent Orange Blue Water Navy Act (H.R.299-PL.116-23). The effective date for the act was Jan. 1. Under secretary for Veterans Benefits Administration Paul Lawrence, was a no-show at the hearing. Subcommittee members stressed the importance of providing timely benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans and reducing the complexity of the disability claims process. Members of the subcommittee urged the VA to adjudicate claims before the effective date of Jan. 1, especially for veterans who are critically ill. The FRA welcomes this oversight hearing to keep pressure on the VA to implement a claims process for Blue Water Navy veterans that is timely and not overly bureaucratic.

Veterans' Day 11-11-2019 and the Marine Corps' 244th Birthday

In accordance with a long-standing tradition, FRA Shipmates participated in Veterans Day ceremonies around the country on Monday, Nov. 11, 2019, which also marked the FRA's 95th anniversary. FRA National President Donna Jansky attended a Veterans Day breakfast in Washington, D.C., with other veteran service organizations before attending the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. NP Jansky was joined by National Vice President Michael "Mick" Fulton and others at a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, following the address from Vice President Mike Pence to veterans and their families. The following link provides a video of the ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB8eV7izCi8>. NP Jansky was sitting directly behind the vice president when he gave his address.

The FRA staff wants to thank members for their service in defending the nation, and for their FRA membership.

Veterans Day is also known as Armistice Day and was originally created to recognize the end of World War I. This Veteran's Day marks the 100th anniversary of the armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the warring nations, that ended World War I. It went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

In November, Director of Legislative Programs John Davis and Assistant Director of Veterans Programs Brian Condon attended the annual luncheon ceremony that was held in observance of the Marine Corps' Birthday at the Marine Corps Commandant's residence or MCHQ in Washington, D.C.

PDBR Review of Disability Claims Continues

The Physical Disability Board of Review was created by an FRA-supported provision in the FY2008 Defense Authorization Act to reassess the accuracy and fairness of combined disability ratings of 20 percent or less for service members who were separated from service, rather than medically discharged.

In order to be eligible for a PDBR review, service members must have been medically separated between Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2009, with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less and found ineligible for retirement. According to Military.com only 19,000 of the more than 71,000 eligible veterans have requested a review of their claim. The Physical Disability Board of Review claims that more than half of the reviewed claims have been upgraded to a disability rating of 30 percent or more.

The review panel is authorized to recommend an increase in a disability rating, uphold the previous finding or issue a disability rating when the previous board did not assign one. The board, however, is not able to recommend a lower rating. Eligible veterans can request a board review by submitting a Department of Defense Form 294, Application for Review of Physical Disability Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States, which is available online at: <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Disability-Evaluation/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review/PDBR-Application-Process>.

Veterans requesting a review must mail their completed and signed DD Form 294 to SAF/MRBR, 550 C St. W., Suite 41, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4743. Applicants may submit statements, briefs, medical records or affidavits supporting their application.

For more information about the PDBR go online to: <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Disability-Evaluation/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review>.

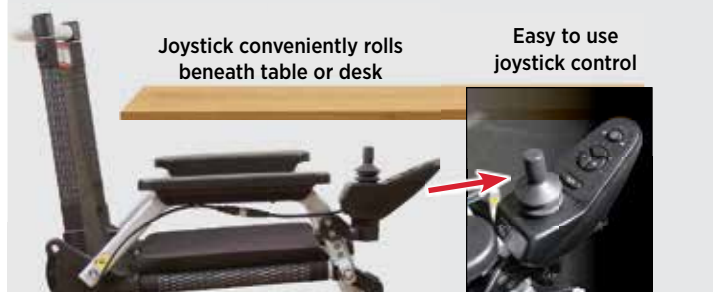
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Supreme Court to Review Constitutionality of CFPB

The Supreme Court of the United States has indicated it will hear a case challenging the constitutionality of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The CFPB is an independent agency controlled by one person. The agency's funding does not come from Congress and the leader of the agency cannot be fired by the president. Lower courts have made conflicting rulings on the agency's existence.

The CFPB was created in 2010 as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (S.3712-P.L.111-203). As this gigantic bill moved through the legislative process, the FRA successfully advocated to include an Office of Servicemember Affairs within the bureau. The CFPB became operational in June 2011. This was part of the FRA's overarching effort to ensure that the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) was enforced by regulatory agencies, including the CFPB Office of Servicemembers Affairs. The office now works to ensure that active duty personnel are protected from predatory lenders under the Military Lending Act, which was an FRA-supported provision in the FY2007 National Defense Authorization Act.

Although the act created the OSA, it did not specifically empower the OSA to enforce the MLA. The need for the OSA was demonstrated when the House Veterans Affairs Committee held hearings in 2011 on banks that were ignoring the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. This long-established law provides a wide range of protections for individuals joining the military, being called to active duty or being deployed. The SCRA postpones or suspends certain civil obligations so a service member can devote their attention to military duties.

Secretary of the Navy Dismissed

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer was fired after allegedly suggesting a secret deal with the White House regarding the fate of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher. This led to a "loss of trust and confidence" in the Navy leader among top officials at the Department of Defense, according to a DOD statement. Gallagher was demoted earlier this year after a military court convicted him of posing for photographs with the corpse of an enemy combatant in Iraq in 2017. He was acquitted of murder and other charges in the case. Spencer had launched a peer review process that was going to result in Chief Gallagher losing his Trident and being removed from the Navy SEALs.

Navy Undersecretary Thomas Modley will now serve as acting navy secretary. President Trump has indicated that he will nominate Kenneth Braithwaite, the current ambassador to Norway, for the position. Braithwaite graduated from the Naval Academy in 1984 and was an aviator before moving on to head several Navy public affairs shops in the U.S. and overseas. After retirement as a rear admiral in 2011, he worked as an executive in various businesses; ran communications at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan; and was senior advisor to Senator Arlen Specter (Pa.).

CR Passes to Keep Government Open

The House and Senate recently passed a second continuing resolution to keep the government operating until Dec. 20, 2019. The first CR passed before the Oct. 1, 2019 deadline for the enactment of the 12 appropriations bills, and kept the government operating until Nov. 21, 2019. The sticking point is funding for the U.S.-Mexico border wall. President Trump diverted several billion dollars from military projects last year, which enraged Democrats. The issue is now in the courts.

As *FRAtoday* goes to press, the House has passed 10 of the 12 FY2020 funding bills, while the Senate has passed four funding bills. The Senate did not have enough support on Oct. 31, 2019, to overcome procedural obstacles to debate a second four-bill spending package. Further, the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act is in conference committee waiting for the House and Senate to resolve the differences between the two bills. These efforts have stalled.

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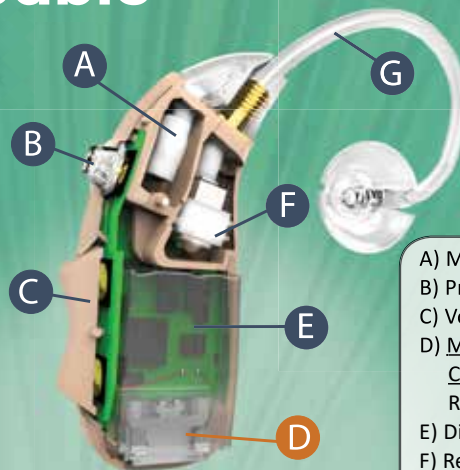
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POW/MIA Flag at Federal Buildings

President Trump recently signed into law the National POW/MIA Flag Act (S.693), sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.). The act requires prominent federal buildings and national war memorials to fly the POW/MIA flag alongside the American flag throughout the year. The flag is designed to help highlight the continued suffering of military families with service members who are unaccounted for overseas (82,000).

The FRA wants to ensure that the Defense Department makes every effort to account for all prisoners of war and missing in action service members for past and current conflicts.

ANC Survey: Burials for Retirees



Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for burial at Arlington National Cemetery that will include military retirees, without combat experience, for above-ground inurnment. For more details on proposed changes see the Oct. 4, 2019 NewsBytes located in the archives on the FRA website: www.fra.org/fra/Web/Content/FRA_NewsBytes_Archive.aspx.

The FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of the Army to revise eligibility criteria to keep the cemetery functioning as an active burial ground “well into the future,” which defined as 150 years. The Army will now begin the federal government’s public rule-making process, which includes soliciting public feedback for the proposed changes. The FRA would like to know your thoughts about providing retirees above-ground inurnment at ANC.

Please complete the short survey (www.surveymonkey.com/r/J3XW3VF) and we will share your responses with ANC.

Oppose “Skinny” NDAA

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman James Inhofe (Okla.) introduced a “skinny” National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). He did this to ensure that critical defense programs are authorized, including pay for our service members and Department of Defense civilians, quality-of-life programs for military families, support for U.S. troops and partners conducting operations overseas, oversight of military construction and acquisition programs, and critical readiness efforts. However, this “skinny” NDAA leaves out critical provisions for troops, retirees and widows. The FRA believes the House and Senate should pass a full NDAA, which has been done every year for the past 58 years.

The FRA wants a full NDAA that includes: ending the Widow’s Tax, delaying the elimination of nearly 18,000 medical billets, allowing service members to sue the DOD for instances of medical malpractice unrelated to combat, and requiring the Pentagon to implement military housing reform. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center to ask their legislators to oppose the “skinny” NDAA and pass the full NDAA with the provisions listed above. If this issue is not currently listed on the Action Center it is because the NDAA has passed.

WWII Coast Guard POW Comes Home

Lt. Thomas James Eugene “Jimmy” Crotty was the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard to become a POW of Japan during World War II. His remains were recently identified, after being exhumed from a common grave in the American Cemetery and Memorial in Manila in the Philippines.

He was buried with full military honors next to his parents in Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York. The USCG Commandant Admiral Karl L. Schultz was in attendance. The family received Lt. Crotty’s Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Medal of Honor during the ceremony. It symbolizes Congressional recognition of the enduring bond between the American and Filipino forces who defended against Imperial Japan’s invasion. **FRA**

2020 Regional Meetings

February 14-15, 2020

East Coast Midyear Regional Meeting

Holiday Inn Richmond South - City Gateway
4303 Commerce Road
Richmond, VA 23234

Telephone: 804-592-2900

Use code "Fleet Reserve Association"

Room rate: \$109 plus tax (breakfast included)

Contact: NED Chris Slawinski

Email: ned@fra.org

April 17-19, 2020

North Central Midyear Regional Meeting

Holiday Inn Bloomington Airport South
1201 W. 94th St.

Bloomington, MN 55431

Telephone: 952-884-8211

Ask for the "Fleet Reserve Association" rate

Room rate: \$109 plus tax

Contact: Branch 136 President Gene Jarnagin

Telephone: 651-454-3402

August 2-4, 2020

North Central Regional Convention

The Inn at Grand Glaize
5142 Osage Beach Parkway

Osage Beach, MO 65065

Telephone: 800-348-4731

Room rate: \$69 plus tax

Contact: Norm Combs, 816-847-6562

Email: bilgerat@sbcglobal.net

August 7-8, 2020

Northeast/New England Regional Convention

SureStay Plus Hotel by Best Western,
Albany Airport

200 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205

Telephone: 518-458-1000

Room rate: \$99 plus tax (breakfast included)

Contact: Floyd Hunt

Email: fnhunt876@gmail.com

August 16-20, 2020

Southwest Regional Convention

Plaza Hotel & Casino
1 N. Main St.

Las Vegas, NV 89101

Telephone: 702-386-2110

Room rate: \$29 plus resort fee and taxes

September 29-October 4, 2020

The FRA 93rd National Convention

Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
8235 NE Airport Way

Portland, OR 97220

Telephone: 503-281-2500

Room rate: \$112 per night plus tax

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sterling silver chain.
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quiet, but this unique
piece of American natural
history continues to erupt
with gorgeous green fire.

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- 18" gold-finished sterling silver chain

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Andres Crespocervantes, an intelligence specialist from Anasco, Puerto Rico, (left), and Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Mill, a cryptologic technician (interpreter) from Springfield, Massachusetts, (right), take photos during sea-and-anchor detail aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship *USS IWO JIMA* (LHD-7), on July 21, 2018, while arriving in Malaga, Spain. Photo by Seaman Apprentice Travis Baley.

Cryptological Technicians of the Navy

By WD Stevenson

Before World War II, the jobs performed by cryptographers (QCR) were done by sailors selected from several ratings such as radiomen, yeomen, electronic technicians, and others.



ABOVE: Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Wolbers, electronic technician, checks an integral part of the ship's communication system while underway from Yokosuka, Japan, to Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan, 1959. BELOW: Rod Whitten W4B. OPPOSITE PAGE B&W: Navy cryptologists and intelligence specialists in Hawaii worked to decipher parts of the Japanese code early in the war, in order to provide Pacific Fleet leadership predictive queuing data on the enemy's attack plans. Photos courtesy of Navy History & Heritage Command.



Before World War II, the jobs performed by cryptographers (QCR) were done by sailors selected from several ratings such as radiomen, yeomen, electronic technicians, and others. Those QCRs were eventually organized into one unit called the Naval Security Group. Realizing that the work done by the sailors assigned to the NSG would need special skills and training that was not available to all the ratings, the Navy established the Communications Technician rating in April 1948. The CTs, along with specially designated officers, comprised the NSG or NAVSECGRU.

As the NSG's scope grew, the group became responsible for a broad variety of technical programs. Because specialization within the CT rating was necessary, six separate branches evolved under the Communications Technician O-3 and 2 rating: the R, or Collection Branch; the O, or Communications Branch; the A, or Administrative Branch; the M, or Maintenance Branch; the T, or Technical Branch; and the I, or Interpretive Branch.

Achieving the CT rating and advancements were difficult and required security background checks, personal integrity,



Seaman Jennifer Pastor stands watch at the Surface Electronics Emission Console in the combat information center aboard the amphibious command ship *USS BLUE RIDGE*. The ship is the flagship for the U.S. 7th Fleet. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cynthia Griggs.

a decent education and an enormous amount of reading. The minute you became a CT, you were responsible for protecting all the classified material and information that you handled. Maintaining the security of classified material was not an extra job but was really a basic part of your assignment. Just think how little the job would mean to the Navy if the classified material was not given the security protection required — secrecy has been the trait most prized among cryptologists.

The highly classified and secure work environment required very restricted access, and it was not always possible to share resources with other commands. Nearly every detail surrounding the CT world, from administration to operations to repair, needed dedicated technicians with security clearances, which accounted for most of the branches within the CT rating.



Members of the CT community have a broad range of career and training options. Once trained, a CT might serve ashore, afloat, or in an airborne capacity. Some CT sailors have been underway for months while some have never boarded a ship.

The Cold War of the 1960s

During the height of the Cold War, the CT rating was divided into four branches: A performed



Petty Officer 2nd Class James Rago troubleshoots the video teleconference system of a video information exchange system aboard the aircraft carrier *USS RONALD REAGAN*. Photo by Rick Naystatt.

administrative functions, M was responsible for maintaining the various equipment, O was for essentially communicators and R was for cryptologic radiomen who were charged with analytical tasks.

Myron Struck: a Cold War CTT

FRA Imperial Branch 289 member Myron R. Struck served at the naval base in Pensacola, Florida, from 1965 to 1969 as a CTT. He was born on Aug. 12, 1947, and is still living up to the code and integrity of a CT. He was a bit reticent about being interviewed.

Struck never served on a ship. “T-branchers were never allowed on ships, as far as I know,” he said.

He went to “A” school in Pensacola, Florida, and was sent to Guam for the remaining three or so years of his service before being discharged. During boot camp, he was recruited to the CTT branch but was never told what CT stood for until after his clearance. His motivation for choosing the “A”

school was because it was located in his hometown. The training for the “A” school was long compared to other schools in the Navy, but that was because the background checks took so long. The Navy took advantage of that time by teaching morse code.

Struck feels that what the CTs did was quite meaningful and important.

“I am sure our work helped the Navy,” said Struck. “Everything we did was top secret and on a need-to-know basis. Once we were done with our job in our compartment, we then passed it along to the next person who would make sure the information made it to the Pentagon or to whoever was supposed to receive it. We never had the need to know where it was going. We were very proud of what we did and I think we did a good job even though we had to walk on eggshells,” said Struck.

He considered the work that he did to be very intriguing and thinks the work of today’s CTs must be even more so.

“Today’s CTs have satellites, computers and other



Petty Officer 3rd Class Austin Kaufman, cryptologic technician (technical), tracks the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship *USS JOHN P. MURTHA* (LPD-26) in the ship's command control center. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Carlstrom.

much more advanced technology. I can't imagine how they do the job," Struck said. In closing, Struck recalled: "In 1969, when I was about to get out, we got word we were going to get a computer and we all thought 'Wow, what a big deal.' It turned out that the computer was so big that they ran a forklift through it trying to unload it. Times have changed!"

Thomas Parish: a Cold War CTR

Shipmate Thomas R. Parish enlisted out of high school at 17 and was considered a "kiddie cruiser," which meant he would get out of active service when he reached 21-years old. He joined the Navy to travel and to see the world. He went from Ohio to San Diego, which had reopened after being closed for a hepatitis outbreak. He graduated boot camp on Nov. 22, 1963 — the day President Kennedy was shot — tested rather well and was recruited to the CTs. Since he showed aptitude for foreign languages based on his testing with

strange symbols, he was asked to join linguistics, but respectfully declined. He said, "You must be crazy!" His final choice was to do Morse code in "A" school at Pensacola, Florida. The school was overbooked so he was on a temporary assignment until space opened up.

His TAD was being sent to Quonset Point, Rhode Island, to his first ship, the World War II *USS ESSEX* (CV-9). The *ESSEX* was coming back from the Northeast following a tremendous storm that punished that old ship.

"Not a single plane or helicopter was flyable. They had all been tossed about and slid into one another. There were cracks one-half inch wide in the bulkhead. It was a real mess," said Parish.

His first berthing was six decks down, with no lights. The whole ship was illuminated by battle lanterns. While at the Brooklyn New York Naval yards, he was aboard just to keep busy until the "A" school reopened. While on shore leave, he was able to see some great Broadway shows like "Who's

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From the landmark book *Grow Young with HGH* comes the most powerful, over-the-counter health supplement in the history of man. Human growth hormone was first discovered in 1920 and has long been thought by the medical community to be necessary only to stimulate the body to full adult size and therefore unnecessary past the age of 20. Recent studies, however, have overturned this notion completely, discovering instead that the natural decline of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), from ages 21 to 61 (the average age at which there is only a trace left in the body) and is the main reason why the the body ages and fails to regenerate itself to its 25 year-old biological age.

Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in

the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old.

There is a receptor site in almost every cell in the human body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$10,000 US per year.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for about the price of a coffee and donut a day.



GHR now available in America, just in time for the aging Baby Boomers and everyone else from age 30 to 90 who doesn't want to age rapidly but would rather stay young, beautiful and healthy all of the time.

The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leap frog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

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Afraid of Virginia Woolf.”

While in Pensacola in 1964, he started out in Morse code. “I failed to copy the eight-word-per-minute minimum,” Parish said. “They had me repeat the initial two-week class and I got up to 10 words, but that was not seen to be enough. Because of my high scores, I wasn’t failed out to the ‘fleet,’ instead moved to the ‘O’ Branch on the teletype. I did finish first in my class, so I suppose that was a good thing to switch branches.”

His orders from school were to Guam. While waiting for the top secret clearance, he was at Anderson Air Force Base working in the courier transfer services. “The food was absolutely terrible, those poor Air Force guys,” chuckled Parish.

“When my clearance came, my assignment was to the relay station at Naval Base Guam,” Parish recalled. “Most connections were by air and it was rare to use a land line to San Francisco. Other connections were to Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan, I think. I had been TAD to the Philippines to fill assignments to cover the Tonkin Gulf, offshore of North Vietnam. While on board, we had to send offline encrypted messages every four hours that told of our latitude, longitude, speed and route. There were only two of us who had to cover the shifts. One to encrypt and the other to decrypt before we sent the information across unencrypted lines.”

The process (unchanged since WWII) used metal discs that all had to align according to an instruction manual, so the messages indicated the day, time etc. Once the message was tested, they would pass it along to a radioman. Because of the four hour shifts, Parish developed some pretty funky sleep patterns.

The most advanced technology Parish used was a relay station and some land lines. “There were no satellites,” said Parish. “Most of our time was spent sending and checking repeat messages because the relays and line would always pick up static. You would send it and resend it, then check it and re-check it. We really didn’t understand what was being sent, you just go through the process. When you listened to any messages it was just all garbled up. You couldn’t understand it without those discs. We just did our jobs. Understanding the information was up to those guys at Ft. Meade.”

After the Cold War

The cryptologic community became more ethnically and racially diverse than the Navy as a whole. Many first-generation Americans who had unique backgrounds were a perfect fit for the special needs in linguistics.

Several female CTs became officers in the 1970s. The direct commissioning of enlisted sailors was a point of pride in the National Security Group. Petty officers and chiefs who had an excellent record with relevant skills and education were frequently commissioned ensigns or sometimes lieutenants, junior grade without attending Officer Candidate School. It was a cost-effective way of ensuring a steady supply of competent junior officers and was a morale-booster that offered a commission to ambitious enlisted sailors.

The Next Rate Changes

More rating changes were made in 1976 when the Communications

Technician rate was renamed Cryptologic Technician. The change was made to better align the officer community of the time. The rating stayed pretty much the same for several decades until Oct. 1, 2003, when the Electronic Warfare Technicians (EW) rate was merged with CTT. The next significant change happened on Oct. 1, 2007, when the CTA rating was removed from the CT branches and was merged with the Yeoman (YN) and Legalman ratings.

The Cryptologic Technician Communications (CTO) transitioned to CTN and the legacy CTOs became information system technicians (IT). The CTM branch was scheduled to be disestablished in 2008. The sailors with certain skill sets would have been converted to Electronics Technician (ET) and Information Systems Technician (IT) billets, but this plan has been set on hold for further planning.

Shipmate Toulotte CTR

Shipmate Past National Chaplain and current Branch 24 President Valerie Toulotte was in the Navy from May 1994 to April 1999. She went to “A” and “C”

The publication titled “Silent Warriors: The Naval Security Group Reserve, 1945-2005” is distributed free by the National Security Agency.

If you want a copy, please submit your request to:

Center for Cryptologic History
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6886
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6886

schools before being stationed in Guam and extended her enlistment one year to be stationed as a CTR in Harrogate, England.

“There was no military tension socially or politically. The Clinton scandal was going on; which was embarrassing being overseas and having that on their news. I’m sure the same is going on now. It is very bad for morale when your commander in chief has questionable behavior,” said Toulotte. “The military seemed like a good option to get an education. I knew I couldn’t afford school since I could barely make rent. I’m from Banning, California, and moving home didn’t appeal to me either.”

Toulotte thinks joining was the best thing she could have done and is grateful that she was in Guam, visited Japan and Korea and also got a scuba license. While in England, she visited Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and traveled by Chunnel to Paris.

During her day to day work for the Navy, she was taught Morse Code and copied call signs, mostly Russian. Much of what she copied concerned Russia’s rail-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. The call signs were sent at the same time each day and if the message was different, they were to alert the chain of command, but that never happened.

“If the signs changed, it meant they were moving something. The watch was two 12-hour day shifts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 24 hours off, which we would try to stay up as late as possible in order to sleep between the two mid-shifts, then we had 72 hours off and once again, stay awake as long as possible to get sleep between day shifts,” states Toulotte.

While in England, she didn’t copy code. There were machines that collected signals, deciphered and sent pertinent information to the NSA. “It was really boring. One of the things I remember is the new people are told to go fix the 1D10T,” Toulotte said.

She was tired of the shift and could not envision doing that 10 years down the road, so she did not re-enlist. “I was very grateful of the opportunity to serve, and to be honest, it’s weird that people thank me, but I appreciate it!” Toulotte said, “My life was never at risk and I was reaping the benefits of seeing the world, getting a GI bill to further my education and maturing (slightly).”

Cryptology in Today’s Navy

The goal of today’s Navy is maintaining information dominance. Cryptology today has five branches that each

have their own training and job. Each CT works under cryptologic warfare officers or cyber warfare engineers (both of whom must obtain a four-year degree).

Cryptologic technician interpreter (CTIs) are experts in linguistics and foreign languages, that can include Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Farsi, Russian and Spanish. They collect, decipher, analyze and exploit foreign languages by transcribing, translating and interpreting foreign content. They can also provide cultural guidance to support Navy, joint force and multinational needs.

Cryptologic technician technical (CTTs) are experts in airborne, shipborne and land-based radar signals. They operate intelligence-receiving and direction-finding systems, digital recording devices, analysis terminals and equipment that produces jamming signals. They also provide technical and tactical guidance in support of surface, subsurface, air and special warfare operations.

Cryptologic technician networks (CTNs) are experts in communication network defense and forensics. They monitor, identify, collect and analyze information for network risk mitigation and network vulnerability assessments. The CTN maintains computer networks worldwide.

Cryptologic technician maintenance (CTMs) are experts in preventive and corrective maintenance of cryptologic equipment, networks and systems. They install, test, troubleshoot and repair cryptologic networks, security systems, electronic equipment, antennas, personal computers, interfaces and data systems.

Cryptologic technician collection (CTRs) serve as experts in intercepting and analyzing signals. They report on communication signals using computers, video terminals and electronic or magnetic tape recorders. They exploit signals to identify, locate and report worldwide threats and provide signals intelligence, guidance and information to support surface, subsurface, air and special warfare units.

Technology certainly has changed since the first cryptographers of pre-World War II. The rating and branches have both evolved to keep pace with the needs of the Navy. The equipment used by today’s cryptologic technicians is far more encompassing, complicated and sophisticated, all to make sure our information dominance is effective world wide. **FRA**

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The Real NCIS: From Quantico to Hollywood

By Ann Norvell Gray



Chad Getz and Kristin Eccleston, special agents with the Major Case Response Team of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, place a knife in an evidence bag during a training scenario aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, on Feb. 18, 2019. The MCRT is responsible for collecting and preserving evidence at high impact crime scenes. Photo by Lance Cpl. Justin Rodriguez.



Thomas Krall, Naval Criminal Investigative Service physical security specialist, demonstrated how to search a vehicle on March 11, 2011 during exercise Tradewinds. Photo by Cpl. Tyler Hlavac.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is the civilian federal law enforcement agency inside the Department of the Navy. Its essential responsibilities for the Navy and the Marine Corps are the investigation of serious crime, the prevention of terrorism and the protection of sensitive information.

The agency was renamed NCIS as part of the 1992 restructuring of the Naval Investigative Service into a civilian-led organization. Ever since the 1950s, the use of civilian special agents to handle both criminal and counter-intelligence responsibilities in the Office of Naval Intelligence had grown. In the 1970s, NIS was created as a separate entity within ONI.

In 1992, responding to the DOD inspector general's initial review of what appeared to be problematic NIS investigations into the 1991 Tailhook scandal, Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean O'Keefe concluded that the existing procedures were inadequate. He recommended adding "criminal" to the name and made the decision to choose an executive-level civilian criminal justice professional as director, reporting to the Secretary of the Navy. O'Keefe's plan also included one Navy and one

Marine senior line officer as deputies. Other changes would follow, designed to strengthen the professionalism and effectiveness of all the NCIS components, as well as increase the resources and variety of disciplines available to them.

NCIS personnel serve all over the world at major naval commands and aboard all the Navy's aircraft carriers. Many of the civilians are ex-military and are cross-trained in more than one area. Their ranks include, among other things, investigators, forensic field and laboratory specialists, psychologists and highly trained computer experts. There are machinists, legal professionals, weapons and physical security experts, information analysts, hostage crisis negotiators and cybercrime experts.

Because the agency often works as part of larger operations, NCIS also fosters support and cooperation among civilian and military law enforcement and security forces. The agency fosters a culture of collaboration, building relationships with other organizations and providing specific skill sets to assist in joint operations. In particular, the NCIS Law Enforcement Information Exchange program



NCIS agents discuss details of an active shooter exercise at NAS Patuxent River. The anti-terrorism and force protection exercise evaluated both the Navy's and NAS Patuxent River's ability to provide an integrated response to an emergency situation. Photo by Donna Cipolloni.

is on the forefront of information sharing among counterpart agencies. This supports the efficiency and accuracy of investigations into criminal, terrorist and espionage activity.

NCIS Cases

To give you an idea of the variety of criminal activities investigated by NCIS, here are excerpts from three Department of Justice news releases, each describing a case from 2018.

January 2018: "Former Contractor at Military Sealift Command Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy, Bribery, and Honest Services Fraud: A former contractor at the Military Sealift Command (MSC) [defendant 1] pleaded guilty today for accepting bribes totaling approximately \$2.8 million in the course of a bribery and fraud scheme that lasted more than a decade. ... The FBI, DCIS and NCIS are investigating the case."¹

August 2018: "U.S. Soldier Pleads Guilty to Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIS: 'This is the first case in the State of Hawaii where someone was convicted of attempting to provide

material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization,' Special Agent in Charge Kaul [said]. ... 'I would like to personally thank the US Attorney's Office, the U.S. Army, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Honolulu Police Department, and the entire Joint Terrorism Task Force Community here in Hawaii for bringing this investigation to a successful conclusion.'"²

December 2018: "Two Chinese Hackers Associated With the Ministry of State Security Charged with Global Computer Intrusion Campaigns Targeting Intellectual Property and Confidential Business Information: ... [Hackers] engaged in an intrusion campaign to obtain unauthorized access to the computers and computer networks of more than 45 technology companies and U.S. government agencies [including the U.S. Navy] ... [Deputy Attorney General] Mr. Rosenstein, [U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York] Mr. Berman and [Assistant Attorney General for National Security] Mr. Demers praised the outstanding investigative work of, and collaboration among, the FBI, DCIS, and NCIS."³



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead (L) presents the Secretary of Defense Civilian Service Medal for the global war on terrorism to Special Agent Dwight Clayton (R) during a ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard in September of 2009. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service presented 104 agents and other civilian personnel in the National Capital Region with the Secretary of Defense Civilian Service Medal for the global war on terrorism. Photo courtesy of Ed Buice.

9/11 at the Pentagon

The extraordinary month following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, offers a clear illustration of the capabilities, commitment and collaborative nature of the people of NCIS. When the second plane went into the second World Trade Center tower, NCIS began organizing its response. One hour later, the third plane hit the west wall of the Pentagon. NCIS headquarters at Quantico, Virginia, established a command center, collected and organized data as it came in, and with the Washington, Norfolk, and Lejeune field offices, scrambled to send people to the Pentagon. Operation Noble Eagle was underway.

The Navy's command and control center on the first floor of the Pentagon's D-ring was obliterated. More than half of the 125 people killed inside the building were in that center.⁴ While the fires burned, NCIS agents on the ground planned their entry to recover and secure sensitive data and equipment. An NCIS forensic team walked the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to retrieve airplane debris and human remains. Tents were set up in the Pentagon parking lot as teams from other agencies arrived. The volunteers organized a steady flow of equipment, supplies, food and water.

Once the fires were out, workers were duct taped

into hazmat suits and began the cleanup. It was dark, hot, dangerous work. Every bit of rubble from the huge explosion had to be collected, brought outside, sorted and examined. NCIS had charge of collecting crime scene evidence and recovering everything that contained classified information. As the debris piled up, the process grew better organized and better managed, and the spirit of unselfish cooperation turned strangers into friends. For a month, the Pentagon parking lot functioned as a small city, housing, feeding and caring for the teams who spent long hours doing detailed, labor-intensive work.

As the broader investigations into the attacks began, the senior agents deployed their meticulous data collection skills to build the foundations for a more proactive stance against the likelihood of another catastrophe like this one. The command center developed first into the Counterterrorism Task Force and then into the Counterterrorism Division. Today's NCIS has exclusive investigative jurisdiction within the Department of the Navy into acts of terrorism.⁵

NCIS Goes to Hollywood

At the start of the millennium, you would have been hard-pressed to find a civilian in the country who had ever heard of NCIS. In 2002, Donald Bellisario,



Karen James is a noted journalist and expert in sex and relationships.

ADVERTISEMENT

Ask The Expert

Health, Marriage, and Love After 50!

Older Men in Italy Don't Need ED Drugs. Now We Know Why...

A Secret Any Man Can Use...

This month I got a letter from a reader in Texas about a "little secret" that has renewed her sex life with her husband!

Tina writes: Dear Karen,

For years my husband and I had a wonderful love life, but when he reached his 50s, he lost some of his old spark, especially in the bedroom. He tried every product available, but nothing worked. For the past few years, it's felt like we were roommates, not husband and wife.

Well, last month he came home from a business trip in Europe and shocked me with more energy and passion than he's had in years. He took me in the bedroom like we were newlyweds and gave me a night I'll never forget. It was just incredible, and our love life has been like that ever since. So here we are, closer than ever and enjoying the best sex of our lives... in our 50's!

On his trip, my husband stayed in a hotel room next to an Italian nutritionist and his wife and heard them passionately making love every night. He figured they must be in their twenties, but one morning he encountered them in the hallway and it turns out, they were in their 70s!

Instead of being embarrassed that they'd been found out, they were positively glowing and happy to share their "secret." The man pulled out a small pack from his satchel, gave it to my husband and said "These tablets come from a small town up north and are made from naturally pure extracts, packed with densely rich sexual nutrients. They will give you back your vigor in the bedroom and you will perform even better than you did as a young man. Then he laughed and said, "You will become an Italian Stallion like me!"

Karen, my husband has been taking one tablet each morning with breakfast, but



"My husband shocked me with more passion than he's had in years. I'm so glad I discovered this new product"

the pack is almost empty and we both desperately want more. Do you know about these European tablets and how to get some in the States?

Sincerely,

Tina D., Fort Worth, TX

Tina, you're in luck, I do know about them. Ever wonder why older men from Italy and all over Europe are famous for staying energized, passionate, and sexually active well into their golden years? For decades, these men have relied on a unique blossom seed extract to enhance their bedroom power and performance.

Milled on the fertile northern plains, and sold under the brand name Provarin, these pure plant extracts have a legendary reputation throughout Europe for naturally fueling increased energy and excitement.

All-natural and safe to take, Provarin is a well-kept secret for those in the know.

An old-school, family business, they still harvest product by hand and don't do any advertising. Long-time customers and word of mouth ensures their limited stock is sold out every year.

They do have a distributor here in the U.S. and Provarin is surprisingly inexpensive. A spokesman told me they were proud to produce the highest quality product for men and couples. He went on to say that if any of my readers call and mention this article, they'll be offered an additional 50% discount, free priority shipping, and a free bonus pack of 30 tablets!

Wow, so there you go, Tina - and the rest of you readers! The offer is only good while supplies last so give them a call today. The number is **1-800-982-9748**.

Aren't you glad you asked?

Karen



Photo by DepositPhoto

producer of the popular TV series “JAG”, approached NCIS Communications Director Tom Houston about creating a pilot for a new series about the agency. Bellisario was not the first to express interest, but he was the first choice for the project because of his experience and the respect he had already earned working with the Navy and Marines.

For the rest of the year, the producers dove into every possible aspect of an NCIS Major Case Response Team. They toured field offices and forensic labs and picked the brains of agents and everyone else who could sit down with them. True to their collaborative nature, NCIS personnel offered stories of their experiences for the writers, photographs for the set designers and samples of clothing and supplies for the costume and prop departments. Each of the primary actors spent time in the field office departments with NCIS professionals corresponding to their roles.

In the spring of 2003, a two-episode “backdoor pilot” on “JAG” introduced the agency and the characters. CBS picked up the series for the fall. Leon Carroll Jr., himself a retired senior NCIS special agent in charge with a long and admirable record, was attached to the show as a special advisor. Before long, Carroll became a member of the family. He is the wardrobe and equipment expert, the vocabulary and acronym coach, and the guardian

of the million details that keep “NCIS” a coherent expression of the NCIS. The character of NCIS Director Leon Vance, who joined the show in 2008, is named for him, and Vance’s wife, like Mrs. Carroll, is called Jackie. But it is only a coincidence that the real name of the actor playing Leon Vance is Rocky Carroll.

Out of the thousands of ideas for pilots, the few hundred that make it to scripting, the small percentage of those that get into production, and the few dozen that are picked up, only few actually make it past the first season. The care and precision of the producers, the cast and the crews, coupled with “NCIS”’s dedication to keeping it real, paid off despite overwhelming odds against success in the business. “NCIS” is now well into its 17th season and all over the USA, everybody knows its name. **FRA**

1. News Release, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Wednesday, January 24, 2018.
2. News Release, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Wednesday, August 29, 2018.
3. News Release, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Thursday, December 20, 2018.
4. www.911research.wtc7.net/sept11/victims/docs/pentagon_victims.jpg.
5. Research source: NCIS Bulletin, Summer 2002.

Joint Pain Injection Companies Panic Over Breakthrough New Pill

Studies show new \$2 pill relieves joint pain in 7 days without costly injections. Approved by top doctors nationwide. Relieves joint stiffness. Increases joint mobility and freedom.

By J.K. Roberts

Interactive News Media

INM — More than 40 million Americans suffering crippling joint pain are set to benefit from a newly patented breakthrough called FlexJointPlus.

Scientists have uncovered a way to tackle the most common cause of chronic pain in the country in what has been billed the first blockbuster since the discovery of penicillin.

This new needle-less breakthrough has the potential to delay or eliminate the need for 175,000 joint pain injections annually.

Patients who have trialed the patented new breakthrough found in FlexJointPlus have reported a huge reduction in pain and a new lease on life.

Sufferers currently rely on prescription drugs or costly injections, which have dangerous side effects.

But Upstate New York senior Paul Sansbury says his knee pain has gone from 8 out of 10 to zero after just 7 days, and no longer needs a cane.

"I needed a left knee replacement, but since using FlexJointPlus, I have less pain. I can walk...I feel much comfort...and I ditched my cane. I am 82 years old," he says.

WHAT SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED

FlexJointPlus contains an amazing compound with a known ability to rebuild damaged cartilage and ligaments associated with joint pain.

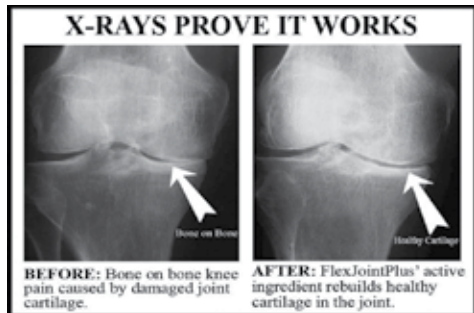
This compound is not a drug. It is the active ingredient in FlexJointPlus.

Studies show it naturally reduces inflammation while repairing bone and cartilage in the joint.

Many joint pain sufferers see an increase in flexibility and mobility. Others are able to get back to doing the things they love.

"My left hip joint was so stiff and painful I could barely get to sleep at night," says Amanda Johnson of Chatham, ON. "but since using FlexJointPlus my pain and stiffness has been relieved, and I am now able to get a good night's rest again."

With so much positive feedback, it's easy to see why sales for this newly approved joint pain pill continue to climb every day.



IMPRESSIVE BENEFITS FOR JOINT PAIN SUFFERERS

The 8 week clinical study was carried out by scientists across six different clinic sites in Germany. The results were published in the Journal of Arthritis in July 2014.

The study involved patients with a variety of joint pain conditions associated with osteoarthritis. They were not instructed to change their daily routines. They were only told to take FlexJointPlus' active ingredient every day.

The results were incredible.

Taking FlexJointPlus' active ingredient just once daily significantly reduced both joint pain and stiffness compared to placebo at 7, 30, and 60 days.

In fact, many patients experienced greater than 50% reduction in pain and stiffness at 60 days.

They also enjoyed an improvement in stiffness when first getting out of the bed in the morning, and an improvement in pain when doing light household chores.

With these studies medical doctors and researchers have now proven FlexJointPlus to be a clinically effective treatment for reducing pain and stiffness associated with joint and connective tissue disorders, especially osteoarthritis.

The findings are impressive, no doubt, but results will vary.

But with results like these it's easy to see why thousands of callers are jamming the phone lines trying to get their hands on FlexJointPlus.

HOW IT REBUILDS DAMAGED JOINTS

Scientists have discovered that after the age of 40 the body is no longer able to efficiently repair bone and cartilage in the joint. This results in deterioration and inflammation in the joint, leading to pain.

The natural compound found in FlexJointPlus contains the necessary ingredients needed for the body to rebuild damaged bone and cartilage.

This compound is known as 'NEM'®.

"Essentially, it contains the same elements found in your joints, which are needed to repair and rebuild cartilage and ligaments," explains Chief Researcher, Roger Lewis.

There also have been no adverse side effects reported with the use of NEM®.

This is a bonus for arthritis sufferers who have been taking prescription and over the counter medications that can cause severe gastric irritation over time, like NSAIDs.

This seems to be another reason why FlexJointPlus' release has triggered such a frenzy of sales.



Elaine Williams prepares for what she hopes will be her last knee injection thanks to a recent breakthrough in joint pain relief. Participants in clinical studies reported noticeable results in just days.

RECOMMENDED BY U.S. MEDICAL DOCTORS

"Based on my 20 years of experience treating people with osteoarthritis, FlexJointPlus receives my highest recommendation to any person suffering from joint pain and stiffness," said Dr. David Vallance, Rheumatologist from Ann Arbor, MI.

"One of my patients taking FlexJointPlus has reported a significant decrease in pain when going up or down stairs, sitting with legs bent for an extended period of time, and even getting up from a seated position," said Dr. Richard Gibson, chiropractor from Windsor, ON.

"I use FlexJointPlus everyday for my stiff and aching joints. I also have my wife and daughter taking it regularly as well," said Dr. Oozer, G.P. from Lasalle, CA.

FRA TODAY READERS GET SPECIAL DISCOUNT SUPPLY

This is the official release of FlexJointPlus and so for a limited time, the company is offering a special discount supply to our readers. An Order Hotline has been set up for our readers to call, but don't wait. The special offer will not last forever. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE 1-800-891-1330. The company will do the rest.

IMPORTANT: Due to FlexJoint's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call, and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Current supplies of FlexJoint are limited. So consumers that don't get through to the order hotline will have to wait until more inventory is available. Call 1-800-891-1330 today!

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FRA Education Foundation 2020 Campaign Underway



Joe Barnes

The FRA Education Foundation's work is directly related to the FRA's mission and founding principles. The FRA has offered scholarships to deserving students for nearly three decades and launched the Education Foundation in 2009 to help expand the program.

The foundation is a separate 501(c)3 educational organization with distinct governing documents, a separate board of directors and IRS designation. The foundation finances are maintained in separate accounts and are audited annually.

We've been authorized to participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign, or CFC, since 2012 (CFC code #80236), and the campaign is administered by the Office of Personnel Management. Recent changes have made it possible for military, federal and postal retirees to donate through the CFC to the foundation and other charities. Military retirees can set up a recurring allotment via myPay on the DFAS website. The campaign is underway and runs through January 12. For additional information and to donate, go to the Best of the CFC website (www.bestcfc.org) and type in: "Fleet Reserve Association Education Foundation."

The foundation is a member of the Military Support Groups of America, a federation of military and veterans groups certified as America's Best Charities. These organizations meet high standards of public accountability, program efficiency and cost effectiveness.

In 2019, we awarded 22 scholarships totaling \$93,000 to recipients in 16 states thanks to legacy donations, individual and branch donations, as well as other contributions. We also awarded a \$1,000 memorial scholarship in honor of RPNC Rosemary Posecany, who died in a tragic accident in March, 2018. We also presented a new \$2,000 scholarship funded by the Navy Department Branch 181.

Scholarships make a big difference in the lives of recipients and we need the help of all Shipmates and auxiliary members to expand awareness about the program and encourage more college-bound students to apply. Please mention the Foundation scholarships at branch and unit meetings and note that 2020 FRA and LA FRA scholarship applications are posted on the FRA website at www.fra.org/foundation.

The upcoming application deadline is April 15.

It's no secret that the FRA and the auxiliary are facing challenges with sustaining and/or growing membership. I know from experience that our scholarship program is of major interest to prospective members and a key benefit of membership in the association and auxiliary.

We should not miss opportunities to mention the program when speaking to various groups since applicants affiliated with FRA Shipmates qualify to receive more foundation scholarships. (Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel and members of their families who are not members of the FRA qualify for certain scholarships.)

Participants in our Americanism Essay Contest, particularly students in grades 11 and 12, should also be informed about the program.

Those eligible to apply for all foundation scholarships are FRA Shipmates, their spouses, their dependent biological, step or adoptive children; and their biological, step or adoptive grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

The cost of education continues to rise and there is a growing need for assistance. There is also a continuing need for contributions to fund annual awards. Contributions can also be made via the foundation page at www.fra.org/foundation.

The foundation takes pride in maintaining very low administrative costs in conjunction with this program. We're fortunate to have dedicated volunteers that make this possible.

The foundation is registered in the AmazonSmile program and Amazon contributes one-half of one percent of qualified purchases to support our program. Shipmates and auxiliary members are encouraged to register in that program via a special web address (www.smile.amazon.com) to help fund future awards.

Finally, questions about foundation scholarships can be sent to scholars@fra.org.

Thank you for your strong and continuing support of the foundation, and special thanks to individual Shipmates and Branches for their generous contributions to this program. **FRA**

Joe Barnes is the FRA Education Foundation Executive Director

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to all current and former enlisted sea service (USN, USMC, USCG) personnel.



Member benefits include:

- A legislative team fighting for your pay and benefits on Capitol Hill
- Use of the Action Center at www.fra.org to share your opinions directly with Congress
- Eligibility for you and your family to apply for the FRA education scholarships
- Access to expert staff to answer your legislative questions
- Representation on disability or other VA claims
- Discounts on products and services
- Camaraderie with other service members

Your dues include a subscription to the association magazine. *FRAtoday* is your most reliable source of association information. Topics covered are: military pay, health care, and benefits. Some great association information and items of interest to you and your family are included.

In addition to the magazine, please choose to receive any or all of the following member benefits:

- ☐ **NewsBytes:** the weekly email newsletter update of legislative and association activities

I certify I meet the FRA eligibility requirements of being a current or former enlisted member of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.
Service: ☐ USN ☐ USMC ☐ USCG Status: ☐ Active ☐ Reserve ☐ Retired ☐ Veteran

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RATE / RANK	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY) SSN (optional)
STREET ADDRESS	SPOUSE'S NAME
SUITE / SPACE / LOT	<input type="checkbox"/> Branch # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Closest Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large
CITY	Are you a previous FRA member?
STATE ZIP CODE	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, previous member # _____
EMAIL ADDRESS	

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January 2020

Happy New Year, Shipmates!



We have been working on an analysis of the inactive members across the country. The map you see of the lower 48 states is divided into “Zip3” regions, which are the geographical area as defined by the first three digits of a zip code. We then identified all known inactive FRA members aged 75 and younger who became inactive at any time during the past five years. By matching their addresses to these Zip3 regions, we were able to chart past member distribution (see Figure 1 on page 38). We also overlaid blue dots that represent the locations of all active branches. You can also use the Branch Locator online at www.fra.org/branchlocator.

There are some surprising lessons to be learned from this map. As we discuss them in this article, we’d like you to remember we are defined as an association by the population of Shipmates we serve. It is ultimately critical that we all stand up and be counted. There are more than 4 million former enlisted members of the sea services; our membership would be dramatically impacted if we could reach even 1 percent of these enlisted veterans and welcome them into our ranks. We need you to reach out to your fellow Shipmates or those you see wearing sea service gear and ask them to either join or re-join so our voice becomes even stronger on Capitol Hill.

The first big takeaway from this map is that no matter where you live, you are probably among Shipmates represented on this map. It is not at all correct to assume that they are highly concentrated in traditional Navy towns like San Diego or Norfolk. There are literally thousands of Shipmates who live a thousand miles or more from a major naval port. While they don’t all have the luxury of a branch within a 20-minute drive, many of them are still surprisingly well-served by existing branch locations. Remember that we have contact information for everyone on this map. Together, we can work with the branches to reconnect with these Shipmates.

The second takeaway is that there are big opportunities for Shipmates who are interested in forming new branches. I was contacted by numerous

Shipmates after the recent Membership Matters article in the September issue of *FRAtoday* that described the Two Bell Ceremony. They wanted contact information for their closest branch, and a full copy of the ceremony script. They learned that they needed a larger local network of FRA members in order to have the ceremony performed correctly. Instructions on how to form a branch can be obtained from your regional president or by typing “Forming a New FRA branch” in the search field of www.fra.org. In summary, if you have 20 or more shipmates willing to participate in starting a branch, we will assist you. Let’s look at a couple of areas in the country that have very high numbers of inactive members and do not have many local branches.

Here is one example (Figure 2), of an area that is centered around Wilmington, North Carolina. There are six branches (indicated by the blue dots) to the north and south, up and down the coast and inland, but nothing to speak of between Fayetteville and Wilmington. It’s a great town, it has the majestic battleship *USS NORTH CAROLINA* (BB-55), just across the river from downtown Wilmington, and yet we no longer have an FRA branch there, nobody to foster and encourage today’s youth to consider a career in the sea services of tomorrow. So, which of our Shipmates living there will stand up and be counted?

Here is an example (Figure 3) that shows the area from the Los Angeles basin south to San Diego, and east toward Phoenix, Arizona.

You can see there are two branches in the Los Angeles area, six near San Diego and one farther east in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. This is an area that has increased in population and development, particularly among retirees, throughout the past 20 years. It seems apparent that we are not reaching as many potential Shipmates as we could in this region. Nobody is expected to do it alone; we need Shipmates who live in these areas to step up to the job.

These types of demographic analysis were not available to us until recently. Technology provides us with new tools like these that can really help.

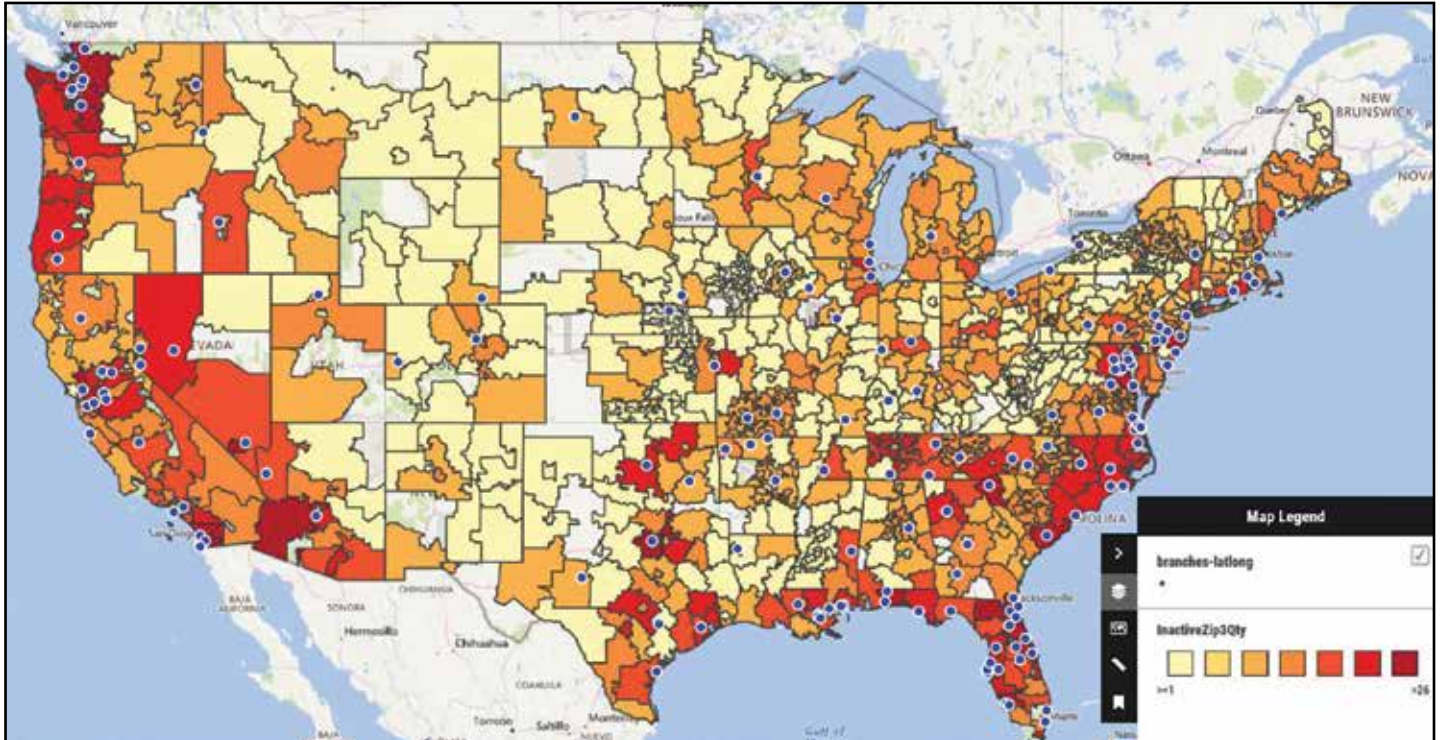


Figure 1 above

We want to use them to promote discussion and brainstorming. We want to know what is the best way to encourage inactive Shipmates to engage? How do we leverage their networks, which quite possibly include others among those 4 million, to reach those who have never even heard about the Fleet Reserve Association?

We understand it is not always an option to drive several hours each direction for a meeting or otherwise jump through endless hoops to reach these veterans. We welcome your ideas about how best to engage these inactive members. We need to know about your experiences, which are grounded in the home truths of where you live and how things work for you. As with all things, this is a team effort and your mission and voice are the currency that define our success.

We are looking forward to a great 2020, and with your help, we can strengthen this organization with new voices who share our common experience in the sea services. Please do not hesitate to reach out and get in touch with me regarding any thoughts, questions or suggestions. **FRA**

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Christina Hitchcock

Christina is the FRA's director of membership. She can be reached at ChristinaH@fra.org or 703-683-1400, ext. 123.



Figure 2 right

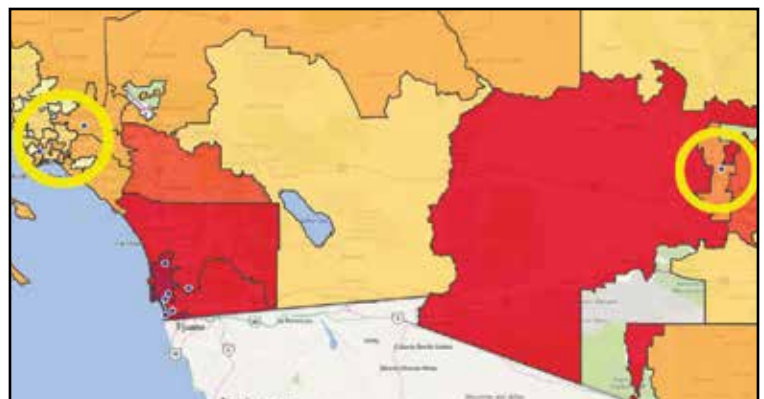


Figure 3 below

H.Q. Staff Runs Marine Corps Marathon

This year marked the 43rd annual Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) held in the Washington DC area. The MCM event organization conducts a series of events showcasing physical fitness and generating good will while promoting the high standards and discipline of the Marine Corps. The event, ranked as one of the largest marathons in the U.S., has been recognized as “Best Marathon in the Mid-Atlantic,” “Best for Families” and “Best for Beginners.” Runners from all 50 states and more than 60 countries participate each year. Organized by the men and women of the United States Marine Corps, it is the largest marathon in the world that doesn’t offer prize money, instead it celebrates the honor, courage and commitment of all finishers.

There are three distances run on the course, 50k, 26.2 mile and 10k. Participants encompass many age and gender categories, as well as the five “Runner” categories: runner, runner impaired, duo team (runner pushing rider), hand cycle and wheelchair.

Talent Within the Staff

The FRA National Executive Director Chris Slawinski knew a member of his staff was an avid runner; in fact, her license plate resonates her enjoyment of and dedication to running.

Maria Osby, Membership Services representative, was sponsored by the Fleet Reserve Association for this year’s 26.2 mile marathon.

When asked about her amazing accomplishment, Osby said, “This is my second MCM, first one was in 2009. I also ran the Shamrock Marathon March of 2011 down in Virginia beach. My last race before I decided to run this one was the Army 10-miler in 2016. Only other race I did a couple years in a row was the Wicked 10K also down in Virginia Beach but that was more for fun.”

Her father also ran several Marathons when she was a kid, including the MCM. He was a regular Army 10-miler participant until he retired. “My family was always out there supporting him. I guess



Maria Osby from FRA Membership Services completed the 2019 Marine Corps Marathon while wearing an FRA sponsorship shirt.

I caught the running bug from him. The Army 10-mile race I ran in 2016 was with him.”

When a cousin of mine ask me to run with her this year, I said why not? I liked the challenge. It’s also the reason why I ran the previous two marathons, a friend had ask me each time to support them by running and I showed up,” said Osby.

When asked why she enjoys running? Without hesitation Osby replied, “Running is my therapy, it helps to regulate my different moods and keeps me balanced.....and it doesn’t hurt that I can eat whatever I want afterwards.” **FRA**

1. BRANCH 18, SEATTLE, WASH.

Shipmate Chief Donald Anderson celebrated his 85th birthday. Anderson was a very loyal Shipmate who served in the Pacific during World War II. He was an avid golfer and while enlisted was responsible for writing two training manuals for the postal clerks of the Navy. Fair winds and following seas.

**2. UNIT 289, IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIF.**

During the FRA National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, FRA NP Donna Jansky (L) shared a moment with Pat Justice (R) who was at her first national convention. Justice has been a member since August 1966 and is 95 years old.

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

Camp Lejeune Branch members attended the Annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day at the Marston Pavilion aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. FRA information was handed out to everyone on Sept. 28, 2019. (L to R) Branch President Raymond Applewhite and Chapter Secretary Paul Miethker.

**4. BRANCH 136, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**

Seated (L to R): Jack Iverson receiving his 40-year continuous membership pin and certificate from Branch President Gene Jarnagin. Standing (L to R): Tom Dooley, Chuck Pollock and Daryl Kuyper. All four served together with Iverson during his 20 years of active duty.

**5. BRANCH 258, ERIE, PA.**

Shipmate Henry Perry was awarded his 45-year continuous membership pin and certificate. He is flanked on the left by Branch Vice President George Greenawalt and on the right by Branch Secretary John Harriger.

**6. BRANCH 222, SLIDELL, LA.**

Branch Secretary Mark Dernovsek received three copies of the book "One Flag, One America" from author Michelle Hirstius. The branch is coordinating with other local veteran organizations to donate the books to local school libraries.



Submit a photo for Shipmate News by email as a high-quality attachment in jpeg format to FRAtoday@fra.org. Please include a brief description and include the names of those pictured.



7. BRANCH 130, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
(L to R) Jim Hayes, Charles Cleveland and Hank Jacoby represented Fleet Reserve Association USS Indianapolis Memorial Branch 130 at the Oct. 26, 2019, commissioning of the USS Indianapolis LCS-17 at Burns Harbor. Although the weather was cold and windy, the three veterans enjoyed firsthand the ceremonies and the newest ship in the Navy named after the capital city of Indiana.

8. BRANCH 238, PLOVER, WIS.
(L to R) Michael Witt presents a \$200 donation to American Heroes Café founder Bill Haack in September in Wisconsin Rapids. The donation supports those who have served in the armed services as well as the police, firefighters and other first responders.



9. BRANCH 294, CROSSVILLE, TENN.
CWO Alexander Alenitsch USCG (Ret.) provided a historical presentation to the fourth graders from Glenn Martin and Stone elementary schools, during a downtown Crossville tour. The students attentively listened to facts from the Revolutionary War to the post-9/11 era. At the conclusion, students repeated the Pledge of Allegiance and they did a wonderful job.

10. BRANCH 166, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.
Information tables were set up at the Retiree Summit put on by Morale Welfare & Recreation at the Rockwell Hall Gym at Joint Expeditionary Base in Little Creek. (L to R) PRPEC Ray Santee, LA FRA NVP Jackie Scarbro, RPEC Sha'ron D. Martin and Shipmate Daniel Kenney. They had the most Shipmates join in the past four years.



11. WEST COAST REGION
William Matthews, along with his wife Linda holding the Bible, is sworn in as the new West Coast regional president for the 2019-2020 term during the regional convention in August. Photo by Leonard Churilla.

12. BRANCH 197, MODESTO, CALIF.
Branch President Dale Wild receives the "Best in the West" plaque during the West Coast Regional Convention in Carson City, Nevada, in August. The award is for his recruiting and retention efforts.



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In Memoriam

Name	Rating	Branch			
Baisden, Jack A.	SA, USN	245	McKay, Wayne	ET1, USN	MAL
Balancier, Victor	BMC, USN	101	Melbourne, Warren L.	CTC, USN	MAL
Bissell, Thomas A.	RM1, USN	310	Minter, William F.	AQCS, USN	364
Boll, Walter G.	CEP1, USN	42	Morgan, Floyd J.	YNC, USN	187
Borel, Sylvain A.	CAPT, USN	08	Morphis, John E.	CPO, USN	MAL
Bowman, Larry A.	ADJ1, USN	335	Mulzoff, Michael T.	ADC, USN	226
Breyfogle, Delane H.	ADR1, USN	166	Murray, Arthur P.	LT, USN	MAL
Brown, Marvin E.	OSCS, USN	MAL	Myers, William	CE1, USN	MAL
Buchli, Nicholas	USN	172			
			Nadeo, Francis A.	FTC(SS), USN	57
Carr, Robert W.	GYSGT, USMC	208	Nash, Lemuel M.	RM1, USN	MAL
Childs, Edward I.	EMCS, USN	20	Neubert, Richard M.	AMCS, USN	MAL
Chubb, Kenneth C.	EMC(SS), USN	MAL	Noland, Howard D.	HMC, USN	MAL
Cline, George A.	FTMC, USN	130			
Crouch, Earnest G.	AMS1, USN	159	Peal, Marlon E.	FTCS(SS), USN	53
			Putman, Alvin F.	CWO4, USN	MAL
Dillard, Walter C.	USN	101			
Dobson, Norman R.	PFC-CS3, USMCR	31	Reisinger, Richard L.	BTCS, USN	106
			Rhoades, Ira	BMC, USN	MAL
Fasteen, Richard L.	USN	MAL	Rittenhouse, Ferness L.	LCDR, USN	106
Ford, Edward A.	MSGT, USMC	208	Robbins, James P.	BM2, USN	289
Fralix, Will M.	ATC, USN	MAL	Rogers, Philip A.	OSCS, USN	166
			Ross, Merrill L.	ABHC, USN	47
Gebelin, Henry	1CC, USN	MAL	Roubal, Edward F.	SH1, USN	162
Geer, James W.	OSCM, USN	24			
Glasscock, Richard H.	NC1, USN	MAL	Schmalz, Herbert J.	ENC, USN	MAL
Glynn, William G.	LCDR, USN	MAL	Schmidt, Jerome F.	CMC, USN	307
Goodwin, Carl J.	BMC, USN	MAL	Shepherd, Everett D.	CPO, USN	MAL
			Soler, Peter J.	DMCM, USN	23
Hamilton, Charles T.	LTJG, USN	57			
Hargraves, John K.	ETCM(SS), USN	MAL	Taylor, Stephen C.	SKC, USN	MAL
Harmon, John L.	EM, USN	40	Thomas, Dean O.	SGT, USMC	MAL
Heflin, Robert W.	ABFC, USN	MAL	Thompson, Bruce E.	ADR1/AC, USN	89
Hilbert, William D.	AMS1, USN	126	Towey, Michael E.	ADJC, USN	261
Hitchrick, Michael J.	AQC, USN	47	Truelsen, Marlan K.	AEC, USN	210
Johnston, John G.	ADR1, USN	18	Werntz, William R.	MSGT, USMC	MAL
			Westerberg, Allen R.	PNC, USN	136
Kaup, Donald K.	MMC, USN	117	Whitham, Leroy F.	MSGT, USMC	72
Knapp, Joseph F.	PNCS, USN	MAL	Windsor, Dudley I.	BTMC, USN	117
Koryciak, Robert L.	AT1, USN	89	Winn, George R.	SKC, USN	MAL
			Winther, Robert H.	ADRC, USN	22
Marlin, Joseph C.	QMC, USN	MAL	Wood, James B.	PO2	346
McAtee, Carroll R.	BM1, USN	201	Wright, John D.	ATCS, USN	289

Names in **red** indicate 50-year continuous members. Any names in **bold** indicate past national officers. To report a Shipmate death, please email: mserfra@fra.org or telephone at 703-683-1400, ext. 1.

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REUNIONS

VT-29

4/16/2020-4/18/2020
Corpus Christi, Texas
Contact: Rene Ferrell
Phone: 361-765-1591
Email: rferrell@grandecom.net

USS Steinaker (DD-863)

4/23/2020 - 4/26/2020
Gettysburg, Pa.
Contact: Ken Kohnen
Phone: 904-654-7321
Email: ken.kohnen@yahoo.com

USS Bluefish (SSN-675 & SS-222)

4/23/2020- 4/26/2020
Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Contact: John Wittenstrom
Phone: 910-638-1716
Email: jwittenstrom@nc.rr.com

Old Salts and Assorted Spies

4/26/2020 - 4/30/2020
Frederickburg, Texas
Phone: 210-861-4932
Email: OLDSALTS2020@gmail.com

Florida USN/USCG CPOA

4/27/2020-5/1/2020
Port Canaveral, Fla.
Contact: Joanne Hykes
Phone: 863-424-6869
Email: vistacruises@yahoo.com
Website: www.flcpoa.com

USS Yosemite (AD-19)

4/29/2020 - 5/3/2020
Jacksonville, Fla.
Contact: Bill Krug
Phone: 352-419-6620
Email: w.krugiii@gmail.com
Website: ussyosemite.net

USS Mauna Kea (AE-22)

4/30/2020 - 5/3/2020
Milwaukee, Wisc.
Contact: Dennis Thieme
Phone: 262-758-3984
Email: dtctthieme@outlook.com
Website: ussmauna

LOOKING FOR...

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All Reunions/LookingFor... must be submitted online, via email to reunions@fra.org or in writing to FRA Reunions/LookingFor... at 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. Include your Member ID and a daytime telephone number. For help, contact FRA Member Services at 800-FRA-1924.

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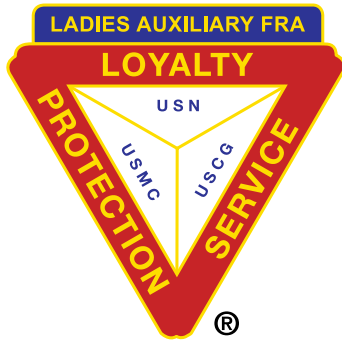
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LA FRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION: Founded in 1930, the LA FRA is a federally chartered organization. LA FRA Units are located throughout the United States and the Philippines. Eligible persons may also become Members-at-Large (MAL) who do not have access to, nor desire to join a Unit. The LA FRA has a proud standing tradition and heritage that supports this great nation and recognizes the sacrifices, past and present, of those who kept us strong and free.

WHAT WE DO: The LA FRA plays an active role in our communities. Local units sponsor youth programs, welfare projects, social and patriotic activities to benefit the communities at large, veteran programs and the active duty community. The organization provides annual scholarships to outstanding students each year.

WHO CAN JOIN? All applicants must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association is limited to spouses, parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, children, stepchildren and grandchildren not less than 16 years of age of members of the Fleet Reserve Association and widows, widowers, parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, children, stepchildren and grandchildren not less than 16 years of age of persons who were members at the time of death or eligible to be members of the Fleet Reserve Association at the time of death.

HOW CAN I JOIN? Members fall into two categories. Members who belong to an LA FRA Unit or Members who do not but join as "Members-at-Large."

Join the Ladies Auxiliary of the FRA (DBA Auxiliary of the FRA)

Name in Full: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) ((Zip + 4))

Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____



The following service member information validates this application:

(Serviceman's Full Name) (Rate/Rank) (USN/ USMC/ USCG)

☐ Certify that the information is true and accurate and that my sponsor is a member of FRA Branch _____ or is MAL

☐ Certify that the information is true and accurate and that my sponsor was eligible for membership at the time of death.

Unit Preference _____ Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Recruiter _____ Member # _____ Unit/Branch # _____

Verified by _____ Title _____ Unit/Branch _____ Date _____



I am the:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sister	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Widow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stepdaughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Widower
<input type="checkbox"/>	Husband	<input type="checkbox"/>	Granddaughter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Son	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandmother
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stepson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandfather

Annual Membership Dues:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00 for 1 Year
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00 for 2 Year
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$60.00 for 3 Years
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$80.00 for 4 Years
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00 for 5 Years

LA FRA Southeast Regional President

Happy New Year!

It is an honor to have been elected as the Southeast regional president for the 2019-2020 year. Our southeastern regional units have been and will continue to be interested in helping our communities, sea service personnel and their families in many endeavors all along the region.

The units in the Southeast are always busy helping at the veteran's hospital, Fisher House, nursing homes and animal shelters as well as working stand-downs for our veteran's.

The units hold various types of fundraising event such as yard sales, bake sales, auctions, cake walks and 50/50 sales to help offset operational costs.

The Units donate toys and monetary donations to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to help provide happiness and joy to many children on Christmas morning. It's such a good feeling to see a smile on a child's face.

Auxiliary members support their communities by providing local schools and the Teacher Supply Closet with school supplies for children who are less fortunate. Most units provide Thanksgiving Dinner items to less fortunate military families in their areas.

Unit members also work with Operation Christmas Child, and donate toys, food and blankets to animal shelters in their towns.

Some units work with their branches, placing flags on graves during Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies. Units and branches set up membership tables to promote the LA FRA and FRA.

Units of the Southeast Region participate in the National Wreaths Across America Day by placing wreaths on veterans' graves during the month of December.

I will in my tenure as LA FRA Southeast regional president, continue to carry out the proud and noble efforts of my predecessors to make the LA FRA the foremost organization, to successfully help the LA FRA and FRA make the right choices for our organizations, and most importantly, to help our membership thrive and expand.

FRA

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Gale Nathan

Gale is the LA FRA Southeast regional president.



Gail Nathan
RPSE



FRA RPSE Laurie Bailey (L) and RPSE LA FRA Gale Nathan (R) and at the 72nd National Veterans Day Awards Banquet in Birmingham, Alabama.



Unit 269 at the Motorcycle Run for Toys for Tots.



Attending the Veterans Day Awards Banquet were (L to R) Linda and Wayne Odell, Tim Bailey and FRA RPSE Laurie Bailey, RPSE LA FRA Gale Nathan, Leon and Diane Cowden and NFS Pat Suckow.

Saving for Retirement and Your Child's College Education



Carl M. Trevisan, CFP®



Stephen M. Bearce

You want to retire comfortably when the time comes. But you also want to help your child pay for college. With the cost of college tuition increasing and no guarantee that Social Security will be around at the time you retire, the amount of money you need to save may seem overwhelming. How do you balance both of those goals?

By starting to plan now, you can strike a strategic balance between saving for retirement and saving for college, says Will Larson, retirement planning strategist for Wells Fargo Advisors.

“A good way to help achieve both goals is to sit down with your financial advisor as soon as possible and create an investment plan,” he says. Your financial advisor will talk to you about your goals, estimate how much money you need, and then put together a plan to get you on your way toward saving for both retirement and your child's college education.

These strategies can be a good place to start.

Pay Yourself First

Your top priority should be saving for retirement, Larson says. He recommends putting aside around 15 percent of your income every year. Don't make the mistake of thinking you can tap into your retirement plan to pay tuition — taxes and penalties mean you'll take a big hit.

Invest Your Money in Tax-Advantaged Accounts

Your money will work harder for you if you take advantage of tax-friendly accounts like 529 savings plans. The key is starting as early as possible, says Kirk Pacatte, planning and life events specialist at Wells Fargo Advisors.

“The earlier you get money in there, the better the potential for it to grow tax-deferred and compound,” he says. “That's especially important when saving for education because you have a shorter window to save than you do for retirement.”

Take Advantage of Changes in Income or Expenses

If you get an unexpected inheritance, stash at least some of it in your savings. And if you get a 2 percent raise, consider putting 1 percent toward college savings and 1 percent toward retirement. If you no longer have to pay for day care or preschool because your child goes to public elementary school, keep making those payments, but put them into your child's college savings account instead, Larson suggests.

Set Clear Expectations with Your Child

Have a frank conversation with your high-school-aged children about the level of financial support you can provide for college, Pacatte suggests. Some parents commit to paying the equivalent of the cost of in-state tuition for four years at a state school. Others agree to pay for half of the bill and let their children know they are expected to cover the rest.

Look for Ways to Save on Tuition

Even if you have significant savings for college, apply for scholarships and financial aid — you never know what you'll get, Pacatte says. You can also encourage your children to take Advanced Placement or college-level courses in high school. If they earn enough college credit, they could potentially graduate from college in three years.

“Being able to lop off a full year of college funding makes a huge difference in cost,” Larson says. **FRA**

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.

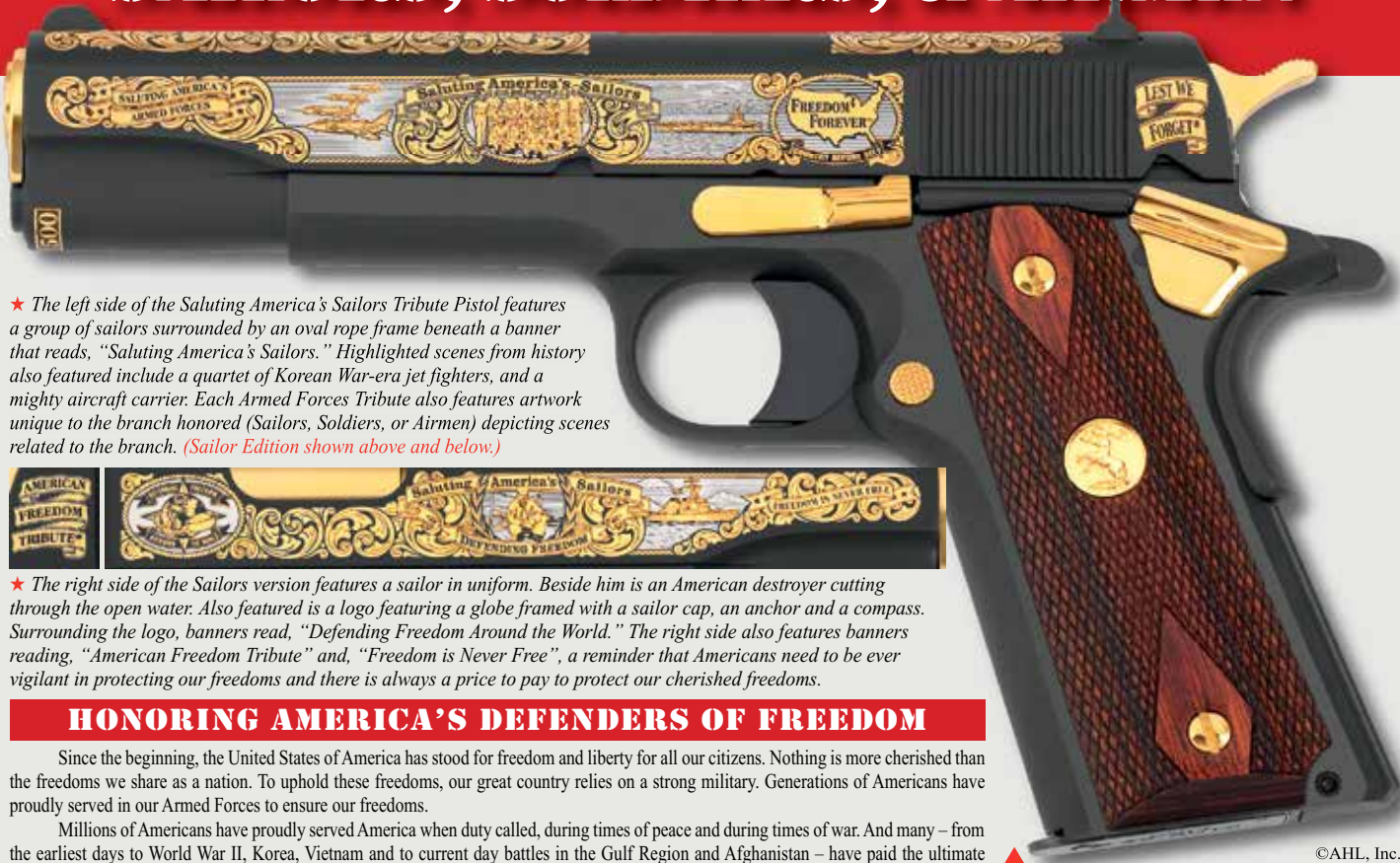
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SALUTING AMERICA'S SAILORS, SOLDIERS, & AIRMEN



★ The left side of the Saluting America's Sailors Tribute Pistol features a group of sailors surrounded by an oval rope frame beneath a banner that reads, "Saluting America's Sailors." Highlighted scenes from history also featured include a quartet of Korean War-era jet fighters, and a mighty aircraft carrier. Each Armed Forces Tribute also features artwork unique to the branch honored (Sailors, Soldiers, or Airmen) depicting scenes related to the branch. (Sailor Edition shown above and below.)



★ The right side of the Sailors version features a sailor in uniform. Beside him is an American destroyer cutting through the open water. Also featured is a logo featuring a globe framed with a sailor cap, an anchor and a compass. Surrounding the logo, banners read, "Defending Freedom Around the World." The right side also features banners reading, "American Freedom Tribute" and, "Freedom is Never Free", a reminder that Americans need to be ever vigilant in protecting our freedoms and there is always a price to pay to protect our cherished freedoms.

HONORING AMERICA'S DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM

Since the beginning, the United States of America has stood for freedom and liberty for all our citizens. Nothing is more cherished than the freedoms we share as a nation. To uphold these freedoms, our great country relies on a strong military. Generations of Americans have proudly served in our Armed Forces to ensure our freedoms.

Millions of Americans have proudly served America when duty called, during times of peace and during times of war. And many – from the earliest days to World War II, Korea, Vietnam and to current day battles in the Gulf Region and Afghanistan – have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the principles that America stands for – freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

To pay Tribute to the brave warriors who have served our country, America Remembers is proud to offer handsome Tributes in honor of those who have served and sacrificed to ensure our freedom: the Saluting America's Armed Forces Tribute Pistols. For these Tributes, we have selected the Colt® Government Model® .45 caliber pistol, a firearm that stood the test of time and was the official military sidearm for our country's Armed Forces for almost 75 years. No firearm in history can boast a more impressive record of American military service than the classic Colt .45 military service pistol. Craftsmen commissioned specifically for these Tributes by America Remembers decorate each Tribute with handsome artwork in stunning 24-karat gold and nickel artwork over a blued steel canvas. There are three separate editions honoring America's sailors, soldiers, and airmen – each separate edition is issued in a strictly limited edition of 500 pistols per branch of the Armed Forces.

For the veterans of America's Armed Forces who carried the Colt .45 Pistol, the classic military sidearm has special significance. It was a constant companion that offered superior stopping power against all enemies. To put it simply, the Colt .45 pistol was a lifesaver. The Colt was utterly reliable, and virtually indestructible. In the hands of courageous American warriors, it would become a military and firearms legend. For decades, wherever Americans fought for freedom the Colt .45 was present.

HONOR AMERICA'S SAILORS, SOLDIERS, AND AIRMEN WITH THIS EXCLUSIVE OFFER – RESERVE NOW

Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. You can mail us your order, or to prioritize your order and confirm availability, call us toll-free at 1-800-682-2291. We will arrange delivery of your working Tribute Pistol through the licensed firearms dealer of your choice. As always, if you are not completely satisfied, you may return your Tribute to us in original, unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund.

These exclusive Tributes stand as monumental salutes to those who have served our country and carried the iconic pistol in defense of freedom as well as all those who continue to serve. As a nation, we must never forget the courage and sacrifice of those who served and continue to serve today. Secure your Saluting America's Armed Forces Tribute pistol today and keep it forever as a handsome symbol of fine firearms craftsmanship, American military history and service in defense of freedom.

Model: Colt® Government Model® Pistol • Caliber: .45 ACP • Edition Limit: 500 Per Service Branch

Please enter my reservation for the "Saluting America's Armed Forces Tribute Pistol," selected below. Each is a working Colt .45 pistol, at the introductory price of \$2,195.* My deposit of \$195 per Tribute is enclosed. I wish to pay the balance at the rate of \$100 per month, no interest or carrying charges. Certificate of Authenticity included. Thirty-day return privilege.

Edition Requested: ☐ Sailor ☐ Soldier ☐ Airmen

*All orders are subject to acceptance and credit verification prior to shipment. Shipping and handling will be added to each order. Sales tax is required in certain states and will be added to those specific orders.

☐ Check enclosed for \$ _____.

☐ Charge payment of \$ _____ to: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

No. _____ Exp. _____

Display Case

☐ I wish to reserve the optional, luxuriously lined, custom-made display case with locking glass lid. My payment of \$159* is enclosed or add to credit card.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Telephone No. (_____) _____



America Remembers®

10226 Timber Ridge Drive, Ashland, Virginia 23005

www.americaremembers.com

To place your reservation toll-free call **1-800-682-2291**



DISPLAY CASE AVAILABLE

An optional luxuriously lined, custom-built, wooden display case is available for purchase.

©AHL, Inc.

★ On the left side of each Tribute, prominently displayed as the focal point, there is an image of a sailor, soldier, or airmen framed with a patriotic banner. Additional artwork features a banner reading, "Saluting America's Armed Forces" and "Lest We Forget®". Also featured is an outline of the USA framing "Freedom Forever", a reminder that our Armed Forces are always on duty protecting our cherished freedoms. Another banner reads, "Country Before Self", a reminder of the daily sacrifices our sailors, soldiers, and airmen make on behalf of all Americans.

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