

YOUR MISSION, YOUR VOICE

FRA^{today}

The magazine of the Fleet Reserve Association

NOVEMBER 2022 / \$3.75

MARINE CORPS MIGHT

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To some, sunglasses are a fashion accessory...

But When Driving, These Sunglasses May Save Your Life!

Drivers' Alert: Driving can expose you to more dangerous glare than any sunny day at the beach can... do you know how to protect yourself?

The sun rises and sets at peak travel periods, during the early morning and afternoon rush hours and many drivers find themselves temporarily blinded while driving directly into the glare of the sun. Deadly accidents are regularly caused by such blinding glare with danger arising from reflected light off another vehicle, the pavement, or even from waxed and oily windshields that can make matters worse. Early morning dew can exacerbate this situation. Yet, motorists struggle on despite being blinded by the sun's glare that can cause countless accidents every year.

Not all sunglasses are created equal. Protecting your eyes is serious business. With all the fancy fashion frames out there it can be easy to overlook what really matters—the lenses. So we did our research and looked to the very best in optic innovation and technology.

Sometimes it does take a rocket scientist. A NASA rocket scientist. Some ordinary sunglasses can obscure your vision by exposing your eyes to harmful UV rays, blue light, and reflective glare. They can also darken useful vision-enhancing light. But now, independent research conducted by scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has brought forth ground-breaking technology to help protect human eyesight from the harmful effects of solar radiation



Slip on a pair of Eagle Eyes® and everything instantly appears more vivid and sharp. You'll immediately notice that your eyes are more comfortable and relaxed and you'll feel no need to squint. The scientifically designed sunglasses are not just fashion accessories—they are necessary to protect your eyes from those harmful rays produced by the sun during peak driving times.

light. This superior lens technology was first discovered when NASA scientists looked to nature for a means to superior eye protection—specifically, by studying the eyes of eagles, known for their extreme visual acuity. This discovery resulted in what is now known as Eagle Eyes®.

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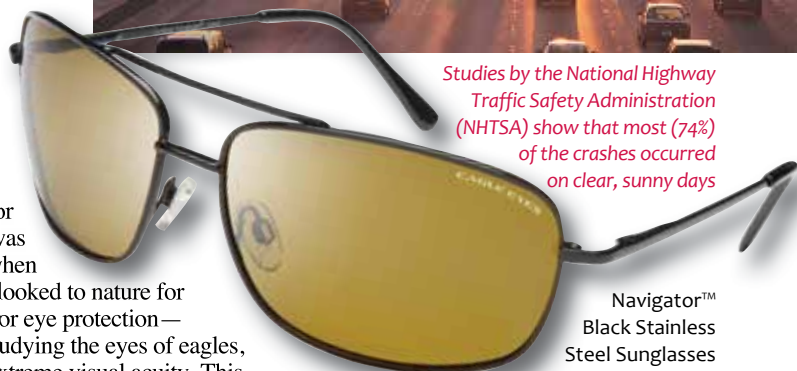
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Cover: U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare for fast rope training aboard USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD-18) in the Sea of Japan, Sept. 5, 2022. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Danny Gonzalez. Above: A U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Venom, assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, completes day gun exercise, during Weapons and Tactics Instructor course 2-22, near Yuma, Arizona, April 1, 2022. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Emily Weiss.

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While technology was integral, the war might not have been over in less than two months without using deception and distraction. The established strategy of surprise would not have been possible without the Marine Corps.

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Called to Serve: The U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps

November 28th of this year, the Navy Chaplain Corps will celebrate the 246th anniversary of its creation. Chaplains are trained by the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center that was created in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1971.



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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Happy Birthday Marine Corps

On Nov. 10, 2022, U.S. Marines across the globe will recognize 247 years of service to their country, the sacrifices made to defend democracy, and the Marine Corps' enduring legacy as America's premier fighting force.

The Marine Corps' tradition celebrates the establishment of the organization on Nov. 10, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress. Following their role in the American Revolution, the Marines were abolished following the Treaty of Paris in April 1783. Then, on July 11, 1798, Congress ordered the creation of the Marine Corps and directed that it be available for service under the Secretary of the Navy.

The birthday, also known as Marine Corps Day, was originally celebrated on July 11 from 1799 until 1921 when Major General Lejeune issued an order to formalize the tradition and establish the day to honor the birthday of the Marine Corps. The ceremony includes a guest of honor, a reading of Lejeune's birthday message and the current Commandant's message, recognition of the oldest and youngest Marine present and a cake cutting.

The first cake ceremony is unknown, but the first on record took place at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in 1937. Major General Thomas Holcomb, the Commandant, presided at an open house for Marine Corps officers, including the cutting of a cake in the shape of Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Corps.

In the 2021 annual message, Commandant of the Marine Corps General David H. Berger and then Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy Black paid tribute to the men and women who joined following Sept. 11, 2001. These Marines were called to service as an elite counter-insurgency force and made great contributions in the deserts of Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Northern Africa. "As we mark the 20th anniversary of those who fought the war on terror and are now retiring, we want them to know that we appreciate their courage, sacrifice, and the valor they showed during this conflict."

"The next generation of Marines may operate differently and in different places than the Marines who wear the eagle, globe, and anchor today. Yet they will join a long and proud heritage of Marine fighters who have never turned from a threat or an enemy. We will always remain most ready when our Nation is least ready, because we must protect our shores and our citizens. And as the next evolution of warfighting becomes our reality, it will still be the Marines who defend this nation," said Berger. **FRA**

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

Source: Official website of the U.S. Marine Corps

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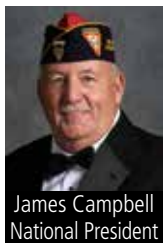
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Thank You All, for a Busy and Exciting Year



James Campbell
National President

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your national president. I have had many special moments throughout this year. It has been my pleasure working with the Auxiliary National President Pat Suckow and her national board. I am very proud of my national board of directors. Throughout the year, they continued nonstop work as board members and the leaders of their respective regions, for that I say thank you for all the support. Secondly, none of this success could have happened without the help and support of the national headquarters staff. To my Parliamentarian PNP Bob Beese, National Chaplain Sam Lymon, job well done.

As I mentioned earlier, my special moments this year were: Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Phoenix, Arizona, the Pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, being the presenter at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland,

several visits to the United States Capitol and more. The list was long and I will always be grateful for this opportunity. I would like to say thank you to all the branches and regions that I visited, for their warm and heartfelt welcomes.

In closing, I would like to say a special thank you to all the Shipmates who continue to work on getting the FRA name out to the active duty, reservists, veterans and retired members of the Sea Services. It is all about letting them know who we are, what we are about and what we can do for them.

Shipmates, I ask one more thing of all of you, please look out for our aging Shipmates — stop by and visit with them or call to check on how they are doing. **FRA**

Yours in,

Loyalty, Protection and Service,

Jim Campbell,

National President 2021-2022

Jim is the national president of the Fleet Reserve Association and may be reached at: FRANP@FRA.org.



The Northeast/New England Regional Convention was held in October and had more than 90 people attend. Lunch was provided by Mission BBQ, which uses a "Deuce and a Half" Army truck nicknamed Bam-Bam to deliver catered meals. The event was hosted by Branch 115, which had 40 members from their branch attend. Some officers who attended the convention were: RP Neil Ross, RVP Ray Rizzo, RS Donna Jansky, RT Jim Brown, RC Joyce Harris, NP Jim Campbell, NVP James "Robbie" Robins, NED Chris Slawinski, PNP Mick Fulton, PNP Bob Beese and several Navy Sea Cadets. Also several members from the auxiliary were there.

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President Biden's 9/1/22 Inflammatory Speech

I just want to express my shock and disappointment at the president's use of Marines as a prop for his inflammatory political speech derived on 9/1/22. As a 22-year veteran I am deeply offended at his use of these men for his political gain. America's military has always been, and should always be, apolitical, no matter what party our Commander in Chief is. I would hope the leadership @ FRA is as offended as I and considers making a formal statement from the organization regarding this matter. Let's not let this president politicize our military or use them to intimidate the American people.

Thank You!

Dan Peterson

Who Reads the Ads?

I offer a differing thought (regarding) advertisement in our *FRAtoday*. In the September 2022 issue there were two letters published abolishing the publication of accepting a specific ad.

First, the letter writers did not reference the issue(s) that contained the ad. I had to scan my back issues to find the ad.

After finding and briefly scanning the questionable(?) ad, I thought who in our community would put any credibility to it. Besides, most people know a publication does not condone nor advocate the substance in any advertisements. We simply accept their payment to help defray the cost of the publication.

I asked two of my local shipmates and both said, "Who reads the ads?"

Respectfully Submitted,

AVCM Aavid Nelson, USN (Ret.)

Extremist Advertisements/Operation Deep Freeze

I disagree with my Shipmates concerning the supposed salacious ads for news organizations and product manufacturers. I believe that *FRAtoday* is like any other fraternal organization as it raises funds for its operating obligations, and how it raises those funds is the organizations business. While those ads may be construed in many different facets by its members, it still remains the organizations business and each member has to decide whether to support or not. In point of fact, those members offended by ads should simply not read them, as I am sure there are an equal number of members who do support those organizations and may indeed watch channels like NEWSMAX and believe in the amendments to the U.S. Constitution. For an organization that publishes a newsletter or magazine to stifle free speech in its choice of advertising

or articles is at its base discriminating and not a proponent of the very amendments that every member of this particular organization took an oath to support and defend, to wit the Constitution of the United States.

On a lighter note, I enjoyed the article "Operation Deep Freeze" immensely. It was a sad time in the late 1990's when the Navy's part in Deep Freeze was discontinued and the Naval Support Force Antarctica (NSFA) Detachment was decommissioned. I was proud and honored to have been a member of that detachment while serving the Summer season at Byrd Surface Camp in 1988-89 and again as the Winter Over Senior Independent Duty Corpsman and SEA at McMurdo Station in 1995-96. Your story brought back many memories and fond recollections of my 18 months on the Ice.

I wish to thank you very much for all the fantastic articles and ads as your staff performs an invaluable service with *FRAtoday* for all its members.

HMCS (SW) Chuck Davidson, USN (Ret.)

Change the Channel, or Turn the Page

In the September 2022 *FRAtoday* I see where two of my shipmates are attempting to use their political lens to shape or censor what I might choose to read (or not) by suppressing advertising they do not like. I see the *FRAtoday* as simply selling the ad space — as do nearly all magazines — to help offset publishing costs. I submit that I and my adult brothers and sisters are able to discern what interests us by ourselves without their assistance.

To my shipmates who want to manage what I am exposed to — consider doing as most of us do when presented with an article, ad, or TV show we don't like: simply ignore it. Change the channel, fast forward, or turn the page. There is no written test at the end. You do not need to study it. If it offends you, simply ignore it. You will live longer.

To the editors — please do not be influenced by your readers' political views in managing the *FRAtoday*. This is a magazine for a military fraternal organization. If an ad offers something illegal, sure avoid it. Finally, I'd note that the ads in *FRAtoday* are similar to those found in other periodicals aimed at groups of mature adults.

FTCM(SS) Thomas E. Clark, USN (Ret.)

FRA

Letters published in Shipmate Forum reflect the opinions and views of individual FRA members. They do not reflect the position of the FRA. The FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content. To **submit** letters to *FRAtoday* for consideration, please send them to: 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or to fratoday@fra.org.



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ON & OFF *capitol hill*

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



John Davis
Director, Legislative Programs

Unfinished Business Awaits Congress after Election

As you receive this copy of *FRAtoday*, Congress will still be working to pass spending bills for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1, 2022. Failing once again to pass spending bills on time, Congress approved a Continuing Resolution to keep our government open until Dec. 16, 2022.

Congress will also be working on passing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-S.4543, H.R.7900). The House approved its version of the NDAA on July 14, 2022. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved its version of the NDAA (S.4543) on July 18, 2022 and sent it to the Senate floor for further consideration. The Senate intends to consider floor amendments before passing the bill in November. The FRA is supporting several of those amendments. Some of the FRA-supported floor amendments include an amendment sponsored by Sens. Jon Tester (Mont.) and Michael Crapo (Idaho), which adds a provision to this "must-pass" bill to expand concurrent receipt. Members are urged to use the FRA Action

Center to weigh in on this issue (www.fra.org).

Once the Senate approves the bill, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills. The FRA is asking Senators to support House provisions in the final bill to halt military medical billet cuts for three years. These cuts have the potential to create access challenges for military families, retirees and their families as well as those survivors who rely on the military health system. Members can weigh in on this issue through the FRA Action Center located on the website (www.fra.org).

Shipmates are strongly encouraged to use the FRA Action Center to contact their elected officials on these and other important issues. Grass roots advocacy has a direct impact on the FRA's ability to effectively represent your concerns before Congress and the other appropriate federal agencies. Please take time to send a message to your elected officials.

Concurrent Receipt Update

The FRA signed onto a letter from The Military Coalition that urges House and Senate leadership to fast track the pending concurrent receipt legislation that is currently in the House (H.R.1282), and an amendment to the Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA S.4543). The FRA is a founding member of TMC, which is comprised of 35 organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services — active, reserve, retired, survivors, veterans — and their families.

The coalition letter notes that currently, combat-injured and often seriously disabled,

veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset. This is when their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by the DOD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. These two benefits, established by Congress for entirely different reasons, are nonetheless subject to an unjust statutory offset. To reduce veteran retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice.

Members can use the FRA Action Center located on the website (www.fra.org) to weigh in on this issue.

NewsBytes is the FRA's free 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.



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Ask Senators to Stop Cuts to TRICARE Medical Staff

Please ask your Senators to support Sections 780 and 1110 in H.R.7900, the House passed version of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act.

House Sec.780 addresses concerns about battlefield medicine by halting medical billet cuts for three years and requiring an extensive DOD assessment of military medical manning related to operational requirements.

Medical billet cuts also have the potential to create access challenges for military families, retirees and their families, as well as those survivors who rely on the military health system. The civilian healthcare system is in a very different place today than it was in 2019, when the DOD announced plans to cut medical billets and transition beneficiary care to civilian providers. The three-year halt required by Sec.780 would also allow time to assess the changes in civilian medical system capacity and workforce projections.

House Sec.1110 includes eliminating the 180-day delay for retirees joining DOD as civilian employees if they are healthcare workers in the Military Health System. Members can go to the FRA Action Center to weigh in on these issues.



Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune received a visit on August 31, 2022 from Rear Admiral Cynthia Kuehner, commander for Naval Medical Forces Support Command. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Molina.

IG Report: VA Mishandled LeJeune Water Contamination Cases

A recent report from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General concludes that the VA mishandled more than one-third of all Camp Lejeune water contamination disability claims, possibly cheating as many as 21,000 veterans out of financial compensation. The IG report found that errors in claim effective dates and retroactive payments alone affected nearly 4,000 veterans and totaled about \$14 million, but that accounts for only a small portion of the mistakes. Most of the errors impacting more than 17,000 veterans' cases when VA staff prematurely denied claims without requesting additional evidence of injury. The IG review of more than 57,000 Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, cases handled by VA staff between March 2017 and March 2021. The VA inspector general found that many cases not related to the established presumptive conditions were summarily rejected, instead of requesting more information on their conditions. The presumptive conditions were created by FRA-supported legislation that was signed into law in 2012.

Camp LeJeune Litigation

The FRA received numerous telephone calls from Shipmates regarding the television commercials about toxic exposure lawsuits for those who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, MCB, North Carolina, between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. These commercials are being paid for by law firms and are a result of Sec.804 of the recently enacted PACT Act that provides comprehensive toxic exposure benefits. This specific section of the law allows people to sue the government for damages for individuals exposed to toxic substances while residing at Camp Lejeune. These lawsuits often take several years to reach a settlement, the attorney representing the claimant receives a substantial portion of the settlement, and there is an offset of VA disability benefits with any settlement that may be received through a lawsuit. VA regulations on this are expected in the coming months.

Coast Guard Authorization Update

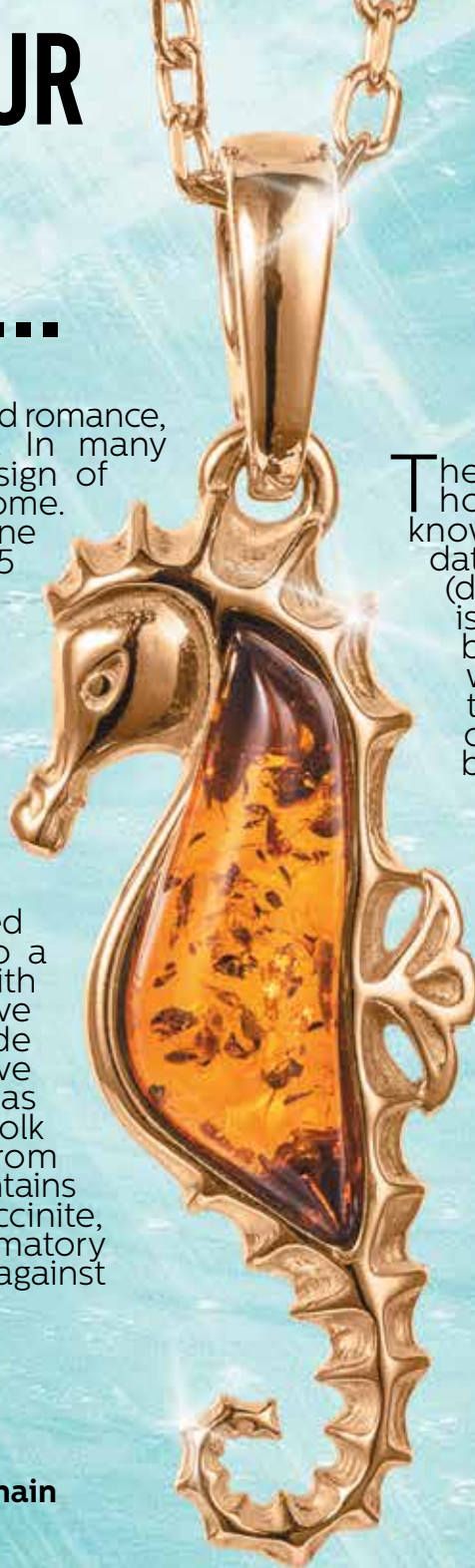
The FRA and other organizations signed on to a letter to Chair Sen. Maria Cantwell (Wash.) and Ranking Member Sen. Roger Wicker of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. This letter urges them to approve the Coast Guard Authorization bill (H.R.6865, S.4802) The bill passed in the House (378-46). The bill has a provision to ensure currently serving and retired Coast Guard members continue receiving their pay should the government shut down. This is a nonpartisan issue that is essential to securing America's ports, protecting its shores and preserving lives. The FRA also supports other provisions dealing with affordable housing and expanding childcare.

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Helping Active Duty During Recruitment Crisis

During the House Armed Services, Military Personnel Subcommittee markup of the FY2023 National Defense (NDAA-H.R.7900), Ranking Member Mike Gallagher (Wis.) said, "We are on the cusp of a military recruiting crisis." Lawmakers from both parties have expressed concern that this year could be the worst recruiting environment since the end of the Vietnam War. According to Politico, the Army has reached 66% of its goal for the fiscal year ending in September, and the Navy is at 89%, according to data compiled from October 2021 to May 2022. Even with rates of 100% for the Air Force, Space Force, and the Marine Corps (Marines reduced their end strength by 1,500). These figures show the department with a total rate of just 85%.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III recently announced actions to strengthen economic security of service members and their families. Recognizing the extraordinary pressures that military families face, Secretary Austin directed the following actions:

- Review the prospective 2023 Basic Allowance for Housing tables.
- Increase BAH in areas that have suffered more than 20% spike in rental housing costs.
- Fully fund commissaries to cut prices to achieve at least a 25% savings on grocery bills compared to the local marketplace.
- Permanently increase standard TLE maximum coverage from 10 to 14 days for CONUS moves and allow up to 60 days of TLE if a service member is in an area with a housing shortage.
- Increase the dislocation allowance for E-1 to E-6 service members, and DLA payments will be paid automatically one month prior to their move date.
- Invest in child development program facilities to expand capacity and quality of care.
- Expand the in-home childcare fee-assistance pilot program

to additional states.

- Accelerate the development of seven additional occupational licensure interstate compacts for spouses who must transfer professional licenses or credentials with each move.
- Increase DOD hiring of military spouses to help military spouses build portable careers.
- Launch a career-accelerator pilot plan to match spouses with paid private-sector fellowships.

The FRA supports the memorandum entitled "Taking Care of Our Service Members and Families." The association has noted in testimony that news reports on privatized military housing condition paints a picture of horrific inexcusable living situations confronting military families.

A top priority of the FRA is to secure annual active-duty pay increases that are at least equal to the Employment Cost Index to keep pace with the private sector pay. This year's online benefit survey of active-duty members indicated that more than 78% see the threat of cuts to future pay increases as "Very important," which is the highest rating.

The FRA wants to restore BAH to 100% of housing costs from the current 95%. Further, the association wants to reform enlisted housing standards by allowing E-7s and above to reside in separate homes, track BAH to ensure it is commensurate with actual housing costs, ensure adequate housing inventory, and that housing privatization programs are beneficial to service members and their families.

The association also wants to ensure adequate funding of the transition and relocation assistance programs, and authorization of increased PCS mileage rates and higher household goods weight limits for senior enlisted personnel. Lastly, Congress should provide compensation for shipment of a second POV for accompanied overseas assignments.

Six More States Exempt or Partially Exempt Retired Pay from Taxation

This year six states exempted, or partially exempted, military retirement pay from state their income tax. According to Military.com state legislators in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont and Virginia passed laws giving retirees in those states tax breaks based on their military service. These tax changes include:

- New Mexico: Beginning in 2022, up to \$10,000 of military retirement is tax free. That amount increases to \$20,000 in 2023, and to \$30,000 until at least 2026.
- In Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Carolina military

retirement income is fully tax-free beginning in 2022.

- Vermont: Beginning in 2022, up to \$10,000 in retirement income is tax free for those with a gross income less than \$50,000 for single filers or \$65,000 for joint filers.
- Virginia: In 2022, up to \$10,000 in retirement pay is tax free for retirees ages 55 and older. That amount increases by \$10,000 each year until 2025, when up to \$40,000 is deductible.

This leaves only California and the District of Columbia fully taxing military retirement income.

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New Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

As first reported in the May 2022 *FRAtoday*, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday selected Fleet Master Chief James Honea to become the 16th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON). Honea, a sailor for 35 years, previously served as the Fleet Master Chief for U.S. Pacific Fleet. He was sworn in on Sept. 8, 2022. Honea enlisted in the Navy in 1987 and advanced through the ranks as a boatswain's mate. Honea will replace MCPON Russell Smith, who took on the job in August 2018.

Honea served as the Command Master Chief at Naval Support Activity South Potomac as well as Command Master Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. Fifth Fleet. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards) as well as numerous unit, and campaign awards. He's a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Command Master Chief Course and Senior Enlisted JPME Keystone Course from the National Defense University.

50 Years Beyond: The Vietnam Veteran Experience

On September 27 and 28, The Fleet Reserve Association Headquarters located in Alexandria, Virginia, hosted a select group of Virginia-based Vietnam conflict veterans who were selected to be part the Virginia War Memorial's exhibit entitled, "50 Years Beyond: The Vietnam Veteran Experience."



(L to R) Director of Communications and Development Mary-Michael Wachur, Director of the Virginia War Memorial Dr. Clay Mountcastle, Photographer Laura Hatcher, USN (Ret.).

While at FRA HQ, each veteran had a professional photo session taken and was recorded while being interviewed about their experiences associated with the Vietnam conflict. Eventually, both components will become part of the exhibit, which opens on Jan. 27, 2023, at the Virginia War memorial located in Richmond, Virginia.

The Virginia War Memorial is collaborating with award-winning photographer and U.S. Navy veteran Laura Hatcher to take the contemporary photos of the Vietnam veterans selected. Videographer extraordinaire, Pamela Hart Vines, will then interview and capture the veterans' stories on video. The FRA HQ is one of four sites throughout Virginia being used to photograph, video and collect the veterans' stories.

VA Extends Caregiver Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will extend caregiver benefits until Oct. 1, 2025. This extension will ensure that thousands of families will continue to receive stipends for the next three years.

The caregiver program provides health care and benefits, including a stipend, to individuals who devote their time providing oversight of veterans who need assistance and supervision and cannot live independently. The stipends vary based on location, but range from approximately \$1,800 to \$3,000 a month, depending on the level of care required. Approximately 33,000 veterans are currently enrolled in the program. Nearly 20,000 of those are Post-9/11 veterans who applied to the program before October 2020 (Legacy Families). Military Times reports that a VA internal review showed as many as 90% of the legacy families who are receiving VA caregiver benefits would have been kicked out of the program as a result from the earlier eligibility changes.

The FRA expressed concern that the VA family caregiver program's expansion was not being properly implemented in its testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans affairs Committees in March. Despite objections from FRA and other VSO organizations, the VA's revised regulation tightened the eligibility criteria substantially beyond what is required by law. As the VA's regulation substantially changes the program's eligibility criteria, the process to determine a veteran's "need" for assistance, and the entire methodology and basis for the stipend paid to the caregiver. FRA is concerned that many caregivers will be unable to obtain assistance which was the intent of the 2018 Act.

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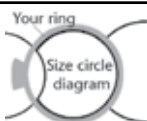
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WOMEN'S SIZES



House Passes Five Veteran's Bills

The House recently passed five veterans bills intended to improve the Veterans Benefit Administration and to ensure that disabled veterans, student veterans and their families and survivors get their earned benefits quickly. This includes the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which will help families who are grappling with skyrocketing inflation.

The "VA Home Loan Benefit Act" that also passed the House will ease the homebuying process for veterans by letting them use the same modern purchasing tools that non-veteran homebuyers already use. This will help them get into their new homes faster.

The following bills were passed out of the House:

- H.R.7735: Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act, (Rep. Bost).
- H.R.7939: The Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act, (Rep. Levin).
- H.R.7846: Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2022 (Reps. Luria and Nehls).
- H.R.5916: Wounded Warrior Access Act, as amended (Rep. Aguilar).
- H.R.8260: Faster Payments to Veterans Survivors' Act (Rep. Pappas).

These bills now go to the Senate for further consideration.

Medical Journal: Post-9/11 Veterans have Higher than Expected Death Rates

The Journal of the American Medical Association recently published a report that found Post-9/11 veterans are dying at a higher rate than non-veterans. The study attributed almost 34% of Post 9/11 veteran's deaths to complications from traumatic brain injury.

The JAMA study found that among Post 9/11 veterans,

17.5% had mild TBI and 3% had a moderate to severe TBI. There were 43,190 veteran deaths with TBI and that 3,858 more veterans dies compared to the general population after adjusting for veteran population and non-veteran population. Deaths of veterans were predominately by suicide according to the report.

FRA Endorses Suicide Prevention Effort

The FRA and 45 other veteran service organizations signed onto a letter urging Congress to approve a resolution recognizing Nov. 13, 2022, as "National Warrior Call Day." The letter notes that leaders in the U.S. Senate are set to introduce a resolution imminently — timed in conjunction with suicide prevention month and the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

The National Warrior Call Day is a national suicide prevention effort aimed at reaching veterans and service members who may be dangerously disconnected from others. The campaign stresses daily connection through calls and unites behind a single day — the Sunday after Veterans Day — to create a groundswell of action from all Americans to "make a call, take a call and be honest." Congressional backing increases visibility for the initiative and serves to extend the message to the local level.

Lawmakers introduced a similar resolution in 2021 and added it to the National Defense Authorization Act, but it failed to move forward. Sens. Jeanne



Shaheen (N.H.) and Tom Cotton (Ark.) spearheaded the effort and will do so again this year on a bipartisan basis. Both members serve on the Senate Armed Service Committee and are consistent leaders in supporting the nation's troops and veterans. **FRA**

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Devil Dogs in

Marine Corps Might in

By Jessica Brodtkin Webb

A Map to Nowhere

It can be strange to think Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations happened more than 30 years ago and stranger still to think how much has changed since then. As the modern world entered the final decade of the 20th century, a hundred years that began with travel on horseback, included “a Model T for everyone so long as it was black” and ended with an environmentally-driven push for public transportation, people still kept maps in the glovebox of the family car. There were no smartphones in 1991,

no pocket-sized electronic devices with downloaded online applications to map a route to grandma’s house or cut across town for an alternate route in rush hour traffic. When Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, however, he knew exactly where he was headed: for oil-rich lands to replenish his coffers.

For decades, Iraq had been embroiled in a very expensive war with Iran and both countries sustained hundreds of thousands of losses. In an ongoing conflict dating back to the late 1970s and the Iranian revolution, Iraq had consistently been involved in



the Sand

Desert Storm

U.S. Marines with 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, conduct a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel mission during exercise Desert Scimitar at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California on May 12, 2014. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Keonaona C. Paulo, 3rd MAW combat camera.





U.S. Marines assigned to the 2nd Marine Division's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, move out on a mission after disembarking from a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during Exercise Imminent Thunder, part of Operation Desert Shield. Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. H. H. Deffner.

territorial disputes complicated by both religious and political disagreements. By 1988, Iraq was somewhat at a loss to overpower Iran in their ongoing fight for control of land and oil. With thousands of human losses sustained throughout the entire region, the country finally agreed to stand down but not before they had acquired an arsenal of weaponry that gave the world pause, even with a tentative peace declared. When defiant Iraqi leaders allegedly began to develop weapons of mass destruction and started to invade neighboring countries such as Kuwait, the United Nations began to impose financial sanctions and established a joint military presence. Among the troops called upon to protect the world? The United States Marine Corps.

Efforts to take down Saddam Hussein and suppress the Iraqi invasion were two fold; operations began with establishing military presence under Operation Desert Shield then progressed to military engagement under Operation Desert Storm. Desert Shield was essentially preparatory work completed by well-trained troops from a coalition of 37

different countries. U.S. Army General Norman Schwarzkopf led Central Command for operations from a watery distance off the northern coast of Kuwait. Among coalition troops were 45,000 amphibious U.S. Marines who appeared completely prepared to move in from the Persian Gulf.

While U.S. Marines were visibly positioning themselves as Schwarzkopf's powerful right hand in the Persian Gulf, the silent left hand of the coalition was quietly shifting troops into a western position far from visible activity on the east coast. While the right hand played a distraction, the left hand lined up forces for a fast and deliberate attack waiting to happen at a single command. Hussein and his cohorts did not realize the full extent of what coalition forces were laying into place or how the Marines would ultimately be utilized in combat. The manipulative plan was to distract Iraqi leaders into preparing for war in the east until an unforeseen attack came from the western skies with no time to prepare an effective defense. In a historical aside, the plan was not entirely unlike the landing



U.S. Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf (left), U.S. Central Command commander-in-chief, inspects troops while visiting a base camp during Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, April 5, 1991. Army photo by JoAnn Makinano, Department of Defense.

at Normandy four decades earlier, which was also orchestrated around distraction and relied upon leading the enemy to believe an attack was planned for 200 miles in a different direction. This time, 46 years after the longest day in Europe, Marines who were visibly placed off the coast of Kuwait were instrumental to success and Saddam Hussein was defeated in just 43 days.

Send In the Marines

All signs pointed to Schwarzkopf having fooled Iraqi leaders into believing major attacks would come from the landlocked south and the northern coast. As fall stretched into winter of 1990, Marines off the coast visibly increased their activity, making their presence known while preparing for an amphibious assault. They conducted training exercises in full view from the Persian Gulf, publicly welcoming Schwarzkopf to the coast with visible fanfare and a bevy of journalists free to tell the world what was happening at sea. When air strikes began, the *USS MISSOURI* fired to the east of

Kuwait City and the ruse was further substantiated with what appeared to be ineffective air attacks. Marine Corps presence off the coast, coupled with those few initial attacks from out at sea served to convince Hussein and his military leaders they were correct in planning for an amphibious attack from the Marines along with a potential invasion from the south.

The coalition not only let Hussein and his leaders believe they were going to be invaded from the wrong direction, they also propped up that suggestion with propaganda and garish workups in which Marines boldly flexed their might in visible naval operations. According to the United States Marine Corps Museum, Marines broadcast messages against Hussein and dropped hundreds of flyers encouraging Iraqi troops to defect from their army. Marines visibly substantiated what appeared to be the coalition plan for an imminent invasion from the coast while army forces were secretly moving into the more western position.

In the days between preparatory operations



An ammunition specialist carries a 105 mm armor-piercing, discarding sabot round, to be used in an M1 Abrams tank, during Desert Shield. Photo by Army Sgt. Brian Cumper.

under Desert Shield and combat operations of Desert Storm, Iraqi soldiers attacked the Marines stationed in Saudi Arabia. On Jan. 21, 1991, the Marines boldly responded with a Howitzer attack on an Iraqi military convoy, the first of several ugly artillery raids and an official start to the short-lived war. As the war rapidly progressed, U.S. Marines developed a system of fast micro attacks. The tactically strong Marines would turn up at a select point with the Howitzers ready to be used from afar. They'd quietly slide in and rapidly destroy a target, then make their exit before Iraqi troops could figure out where the threat was coming from or take any opportunity to defend themselves against the long-range attacks.

The quick-hit artillery raids of those first days in Desert Storm were brilliantly effective at breaking up Iraqi encampments but they were also another distraction from what coalition forces were really

doing. Each time Marines located isolated Iraqi targets, they kept the opposition so busy, Iraqi leaders had no time to consider whether they were being set up for a completely different attack and had little time to deploy counterbattery. By the time major air strikes took effect in the west, Marine infantry units had already taken out some Iraqi forces from the ground on the eastern flank, ruining Iraq's ill-conceived plans for defense. Operation Desert Storm was a rapid success.

Debrief From a Few Decades Later

Throughout the course of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Marines took out more than; 1,000 Iraqi tanks, 600 armored personnel carriers and 400 artillery pieces. They killed about 1,500 enemy troops and took more than 23,000 prisoners. However, combat operations, even with critical planning and a technological advantage, still left



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Soldiers operate the GPS receivers during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. The receiver, which facilitated GPS navigation in the open desert, along with other space-based capabilities such as missile warning, space-based imagery and satellite communications played a major role in enabling the success of U.S. and coalition forces during 100 hours of sustained combat. Army photo by Jason Cutshaw.

some Marines in harm's way with minefields to navigate, unforeseen armed Iraqis and a new M1 Abrams tank to master while under attack. Unfortunately, 24 Marines were killed in action or died from wounds acquired in combat, including 14 from friendly fire. An additional 92 Marines were wounded.

Although the Marines' artillery raids were an unquestionable success, there is something to be said for the use of technology in those attacks. Before each raid, aircraft were sent out to jam Iraqi radar systems in the area, helping conceal the Marines from detection as they moved in and out of position surrounding raids. During the raids, Marines also sent remotely piloted vehicles on reconnaissance missions and manned aircraft provided air support by taking out additional Iraqi troops from above.

Most people would not be able to effectively navigate miles of undefined desert terrain as the Marines did without a little bit of technology we

now take for granted: the global positioning system network or GPS. Then-emerging technology, which is now embedded in hundreds of online applications with popup windows asking if we'd like to "share our location" to find the closest grocery store or shopping center was put to the test in Southwest Asia by troops attempting to win a war drawn across invisible lines in an unforgiving desert. The GPS and remote capabilities of early SLGR systems or "sluggers" developed by the Air Force was heavily utilized by the U.S. Army and coalition forces. Historically, the war could be considered the first war in space as maneuvered satellites are paramount to effectively utilize GPS.

More importantly, there is also something to be said for human nature. While technology was integral to the war, it might not have been over in less than two months without deception and distraction. The established strategy of surprise reworked alongside modern technology would not have been possible without the Marine Corps. **FRA**

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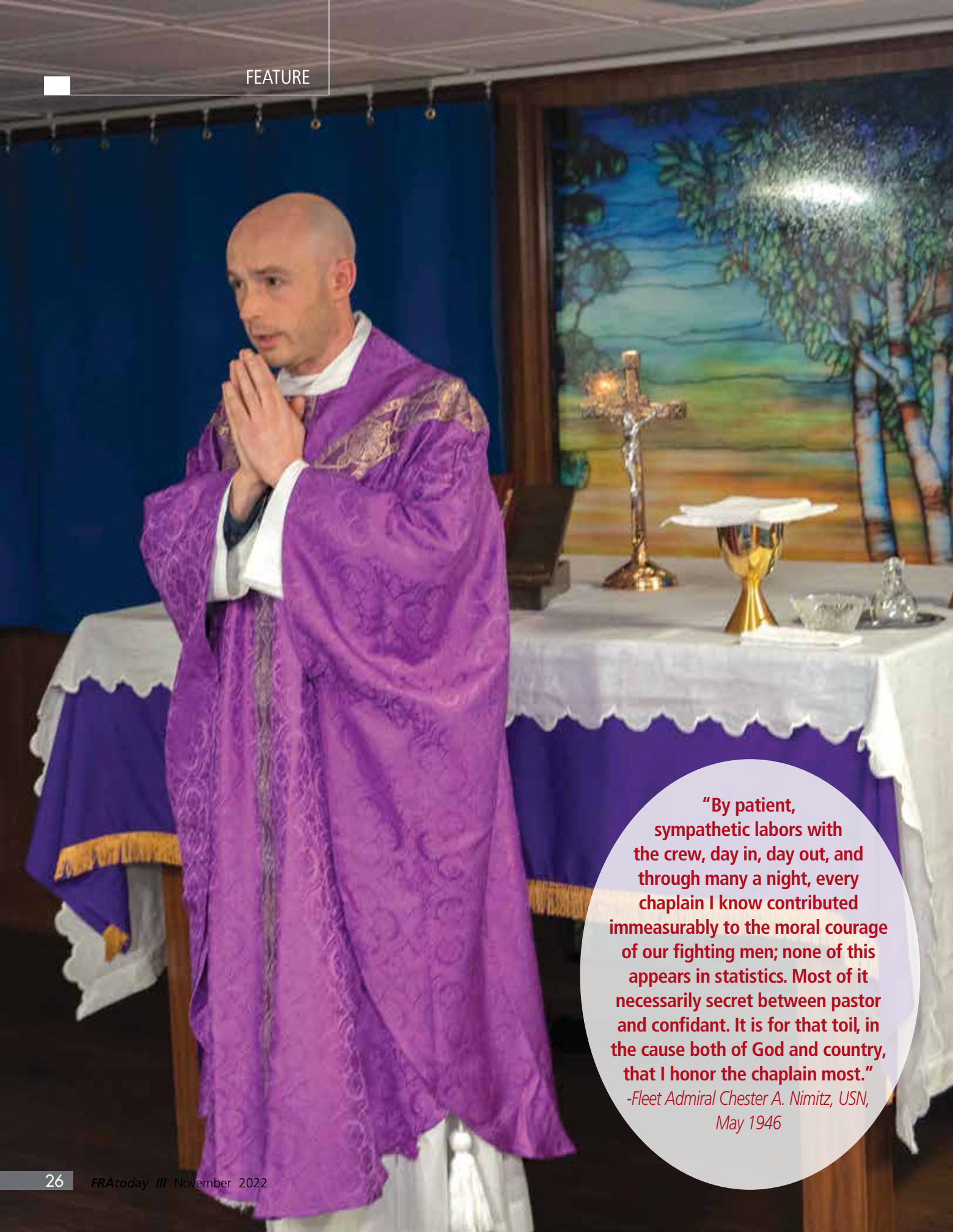
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"By patient, sympathetic labors with the crew, day in, day out, and through many a night, every chaplain I know contributed immeasurably to the moral courage of our fighting men; none of this appears in statistics. Most of it necessarily secret between pastor and confidant. It is for that toil, in the cause both of God and country, that I honor the chaplain most."

*-Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz, USN,
May 1946*

Called to Serve

The U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps

By Ann Norvell Gray

In the first years of the American Revolutionary War, George Washington knew in his heart of hearts that the presence of spiritual support was a critical necessity for the woefully under prepared and under-equipped Continental Army. In July of 1775, the Continental Congress granted his request, and the first Chaplain Corps was created, with one chaplain for each regiment holding the rank of captain. Four months later, the Rules for the Regulation of the Navy were issued, based on the regulations of the British Royal Navy. Thus, on November 28th of this year, the Navy Chaplain Corps will celebrate the 246th anniversary of its creation by Article 2 of those Rules, which says simply, "The Commanders of the ships of the Thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on board, and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent it."¹

Those years have been filled with growth in the knowledge, diversity, training, and preparation for this calling that draws faith leaders into this service. Navy chaplains are prepared for duty by the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center (NCSC), which was created in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1971. In 2005, the NCSC left Newport for Fort Jackson in South Carolina as part of that year's Base Realignment and

Closure Commission reorganizations. The idea was to combine the training of chaplains and religious program specialists (RPs), who provide needed support and protection to the non-combatant chaplains, into one operation. After fourteen years of growth and development at Fort Jackson, the NCSC returned to Naval Station Newport, and to its historic home in Brett Hall. The building is named for Lt. Robert Raymond Brett, a Navy chaplain killed in action in Vietnam after giving his place on an evacuating Huey to a fellow Marine. Of the return, NCSC instructor Lt. Cmdr. Justin Hayes said "By moving back here, we're reconnecting with our roots as sailors. Those who leave here go to their commands ready to help strengthen the warfighter's spirit. A lot of the different weights we carry on our shoulders can degrade mission readiness, and it's the chaplain's role to be someone who breathes fresh life into the fighting spirit of the warrior."² He and his fellow teachers encourage his students to uphold Brett's example of presence, continued care, and selfless devotion to duty.

One example of the NCSC's continuing growth came in 2013, when Navy chaplains and RPs met with Chaplain Corps leadership at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling to fine-tune a new course of training in the special pastoral needs of victims



Lt. William Appel, the chaplain assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS NITZE* (DDG-94) holds a religious book during an ecumenical service. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Madysson Anne Ritter.

of sexual assault. Reporting procedures for those kinds of assaults were already included in NCSC training, but the specific characteristics of guidance and support for recovery within the constraints of strict confidentiality had not been part of it. In his opening remarks, then-Chief of Chaplains Rear Adm. Mark L. Tidd said, “As chaplains and religious program specialists, we are in the unique position of being first responders when these critical situations arise. The role we play in helping victims and the accused is crucial to the healing and recovery process for the individual service members, their units and their families.” Teresa Scalzo from the judge advocate general corps’ trial counsel assistance program was on hand to address how religious ministry teams can support victims as they navigate the legal process. “Very often we forget that there are two important goals in military justice: one is victim health and wholeness, and the other is offender accountability. We are far more likely to achieve

both goals if we seek both goals.”³

As most Shipmates certainly know, a warm, wise, committed chaplain can make the difference between being stymied by the challenges in their tours of duty, or coping with the pressure and pain they may be called on to face. The requirements for these officers are specific, and ensure that a commissioned chaplain is appropriately credentialed by a faith-based organization recognized by the Department of Defense. Chaplains who are formally recognized or ordained in the Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions still represent the majority, and the path toward recognition for many smaller groups has been long. Still, many other ways of approaching spiritual health have been included over time, and the institutional intention is that no sailor, Marine, or Coastie should lack the sympathetic counsel of a trusted chaplain. A few more than 100 faiths appeared on the list until 2017, when the DOD



Navy Lt. Chandler Irwin, a chaplain, presides over the funeral service for Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Griffith at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia on May 21, 2021. Griffith was killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor; the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that his remains were accounted for in 2020. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser.

added more than 100 even less well-known faiths to their list, and now many more service personnel have an alternative to “Other” in their records. Not every recognized group has a path to chaplaincy, but the officers of the Navy Chaplain Corps are bound by their commissions to offer unstinting support to any enlisted person needing their ministrations, to maintain strictest confidentiality, and whenever possible to find a like-minded chaplain or counselor to provide support for servicemen and women of a tradition different from their own.

In 1944, my father was an Army officer serving in Belgium. Like their father before them, his younger brother was an ordained Presbyterian minister, and was about to be commissioned as a Navy chaplain. My father wrote to him about his new role and said, “May I say just a few things as an older officer ... and not as an older brother? You have a great calling in an appointment to the chaplaincy; treat it well. ... Remember that these

are boys away from home against their will to do a job that for the most part is bewildering to them. They must do as a business what all their lives they have been taught is wrong. ...The job is one of killing and dying... Please do not remonstrate with them about the petty things ... They will swear, drink, gamble, fight and generally seem to be going to hell. Remember that it is the fear, the wish to forget the horror, the outward attempt to seem a man. Inside if you look deep enough ...they are beautiful in the courage they have every day ...If you can make them seem important to God, you will make God seem very important to them...”

Lt. Cmdr. Wilking Jean is a Navy chaplain who came to the U.S. from Haiti to escape its political turmoil, and has written a moving account of his joy in learning and living out his calling. Knowing that he wanted to head for ministry, he enrolled in Oakwood University, a private, historically black Seventh-day Adventist university in Huntsville, Alabama, founded at the end of the American



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Takana Jefferson, Naval Support Activity Washington chaplain, receives the insignia to match her new rank during a promotion ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., July 1, 2021. Navy photo by Elizabeth Kearns.

Civil War. He said, “One of my teachers Dr. Marvin Warren said, ‘I believe that God called all of you into ministry, but I don’t believe he called all of you to be a pulpit minister.’ ... My dream and God’s plan came true in the form of a military chaplain.”

About his posting to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Lt. Cmdr. Jean said, “To have an effective ministry of presence on Parris Island, you must be open to change. You must have the will, emotional tolerance, mental fortitude, spiritual guidance to not only face uncertainty but smack it in the face and press on ... I work with young men and women often unmarked by a specific religious identity and do so on behalf of a secular institution. ... I pray that I can be helpful to them... [and] God always gives wisdom to help them. ... For me, it is the ultimate honor to serve God and country. May God bless these United States of America.”⁴

In a recent exchange of correspondence with

Lt. Cmdr. Hayes Perdue, the director of CREDO Mid Atlantic⁵ in Norfolk, VA, when asked several questions about the call, the life, and the role of a Navy chaplain, he said this:

“I was an Episcopal priest in Northern Virginia, and on 9/11 I knew with certainty that I would need to trade in my wing tips for combat boots. Initially, my wife Melody had some reservations. Then one day she came to my office at the church and said that while praying that morning, in her mind’s eye she saw hundreds of young service members going off to war. With tears in her eyes, she said, ‘I need you. But they need you more.’ So at the age of 35, I left her and our three small children for Chaplain boot camp, knowing this was a call from God for our whole family.

“After a tour in Iraq, then a tour in Afghanistan with infantry Marines, followed by time on the Bataan and the TR, I was hooked. I loved the fact that service members would use salty language in a conversation with me and have no idea that that is

Scientific Discovery Stuns Doctors

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary “special herb” gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Leading the way from nature’s pharmacy is the new “King of Oils” that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

Biblical scholars treasured this “holy oil.” Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears’ attention is how modern medical findings now prove this “King of Oils” can powerfully...

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If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won’t give you all the relief you need.

Doctors and scientists now confirm the “King of Oils”—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes “on” or “off.” A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is “so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints.”

Relief That’s 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is, the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the International



*The active ingredient in **Mobilify** soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days*

Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense “significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days.” That’s relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That’s a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, “**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast.” Shirley M. adds, “Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase.” Larry M. says, “After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it’s almost like being reborn.” And avid golfer Dennis H. says, “I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried.”

How to Get Mobilify

Right now, the only way to get this powerful, unique formula that clobbers creaking joints in as little as five days without clobbering you is with Dr. Sears’ breakthrough **Mobilify** formula. It is not available in stores.

To secure your bottle of this breakthrough natural joint discomfort reliever, buyers should call with Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-211-9162**. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers.”

Dr. Sears believes in this product so much, he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on ever order. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I’ll send you your money back,” said Dr. Sears.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow them to restock. Call **1-800-211-9162** to secure your limited supply of **Mobilify**. If you are not able to get through due to extremely high call volume, please try again! Call NOW to qualify for this limited time offer provided at a significant discount. To take advantage of this exclusive offer use Promo Code: **FRAMB1022** when you call.



Navy Cmdr. Joseph Coffey, a chaplain, leads a prayer during a burial-at-sea ceremony aboard the *USS RONALD REAGAN* in waters south of Japan on Nov. 28, 2015. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan McFarlane.

not how you talk to a clergyman. When they were scared, they knew they could tell me and I wouldn't tell a soul. And if someone wants to speak with a chaplain of their own faith, we will move heaven and earth to support them.

"Chaplains have line officers they report to, but they also have senior staff chaplains to guide them. I am so thankful for my senior chaplains who always made sure I was okay. After we lost a warrior to suicide, another chaplain helped me process a crushing burden of survivor's guilt. As we talked, the weight lifted. So as a Chaplain, I want to remind people that our difficulties aren't permanent. The world is constantly changing. We are changing. Seasons change. A creek today becomes a river. A town becomes a city. That is why we don't want to make a permanent decision, like suicide, to solve a temporary problem.

"Through new programs we are implementing, the Chaplain Corps is making it safer than ever for people to tell someone if they need help. And we are also teaching sailors and Marines to check in and ask their shipmates if they are okay. We are better together. We are stronger as a Navy together. It is an honor to serve." **FRA**

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Left: Chief John navy photo taken in 1968. Right: Jan and PNP John Johnson. Photo taken during the FRA National Convention in 1999.

Master Chief Petty Officer Marvin Wayne “John” Johnson

U.S. Navy (Retired)

Aug. 5, 1937 to Aug. 20, 2022

FRA National President 1999-2000

Marvin Wayne Johnson or “John” to all who knew him, was born on August 5, 1937 in Wilmington, California. At the age of 17 in September 1954 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was trained as an Aviation Electrician’s Mate. John’s 20 years of active duty service included assignments to aviation squadrons at Moffett Field, California; NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii; NAS North Island, California and a tour with VAW-11 Det. Q aboard *USS BENNINGTON* (CVS-20). He also served with the Guided Missile Group 2 at Chincoteague, Virginia, and the Naval Missile Center in Pt. Magu, California. John also served on the *USS KEARSARGE* (CVS-33) and the *USS TICONDEROGA* (CVS-10) participating in three cruises to Vietnam. In March of 1974, he retired as a Chief Aviation Electrician’s Mate and had earned

awards such as Good Conduct (5), Navy Unit Citation Vietnam Campaign, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Following his military service, John worked for Pacific Northwest Bell (later known as U.S. West) in several professional capacities. He retired from his role as an outside plant engineer in 1990, but continued contracting with U.S. West and other companies until he fully retired in 1998.

For more than 40 years, John has been a member of the Fleet Reserve Association. He was proud to have received his 40 year pin five months ago, in March of 2022. Shipmate John was elected national president of the FRA at the 72nd National Convention held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey for 1999-2000. Prior to that, John served as national vice president for 1998-1999. Prior to that, John



Top left: JrPNP Johnson displaying the uniform of the day during the FRA Convention in 2000. Top right: Dana, John and Susan Johnson before their honor flight in 2018. Above: John was addressing the assembly during the 2021 Convention held in Spokane. Left: PNP John Johnson portrait taken during the 1999 convention.

served as national vice president for 1998-1999. He also served at the branch level on the board of directors (4 years), secretary (20 years), president (6 years) and as editor of the branch newsletter (8 years). During the four decades he represented FRA Branch 104, John was involved in the Auburn Veteran's Day Parade for 30 of those years, passing out poppies on Memorial Day and volunteering time at the Orting Soldiers Home for bingo.

John also served as chairman on multiple regional and national committees. He was regional secretary, regional vice president, then finally president from 1991 to 1992. John co-chaired the 71st National Convention that was held in Portland, Oregon. He was definitely a man who was always involved with his Shipmates and other veterans.

John was a member of the American Legion where he also

served as commander and most recently finance officer. He participated in many projects representing the FRA and the American Legion, including the Veteran's Park in Puyallup, Veteran's Day events and Memorial Day at both the Puyallup Pavilion and Woodbine Cemetery.

John was a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the National Chief Petty Officers Association where he served in the capacity of president. John was also a member of the Puyallup Eagles (as well as the RV Club) and the Legacy West Pioneers.

In 2018, John applied for and was chosen to participate in the Puget Sound Honor Flight program and spent three days in Washington D.C. with his daughter, Dana as his "guardian." Honor Flights take veterans of foreign wars to visit the National Memorials in Washington D.C. It is a



Left: PNP John Johnson salutes during a ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery some time in 2000.



Right: John and Jan Johnson.

weekend dedicated to serving and honoring all those who served. According to John, this trip shared with his Dana was one of the most memorable and best trips he had ever taken.

The Following Is from His Daughters and Son

But it wasn't just all business for dad, he balanced it out with family, sports, RV trips, Corvette club outings, traveling, and tending to his birds in the backyard. He enjoyed all sports and was a dedicated Rams fan (so we were a house divided during the football season)! His true passion was golf and he would head out to the golf course 12 months of the year in any weather.

For a time, dad owned a red Corvette that he let Jan (Mom) drive once (he didn't like sharing according to her!). According to dad, there was no other color but red! For 12 years dad and mom enjoyed their RV and spent a good amount of time at their property in Ocean Shores. Every



Above: The extended Johnson family, and pets, gathered for a recent family get together. This was one of many they had throughout the years.

Fourth of July a large group of family and friends would join them, creating many cherished memories.

Mom and dad enjoyed travelling to all of the Fleet Reserve Association conventions throughout the U.S. dad also took mom on trips to Japan, London, Mexico as well as many memorable cruises. Dad loved to visit places he had been to in the service to show mom, including Hawaii.

Papa loved watching his grandsons and granddaughter play sports and was their biggest supporter. His passion sometimes made him very vocal and he was looked at sternly on several occasions from the referees/umpires. He was told by us to shush many times but he didn't care when a bad call was made on one of his grand kids. However, it wasn't just sports that he showed up for. He also attended band and choir concerts, as well as Jr. ROTC events with one of his grandsons.

John was called to the Staff of the Supreme Commander August 20, 2022. John is survived by his wife of 28 years, Jan; daughters, Susan Caldwell (Dave), Dana Mathews (Tom), Cyndi Hancock (Jim) and Carmen Totten (Rob), and his son Paul Johnson. He is also survived by his sister Barbara Robison of Salt Lake City, 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Donations in John's name can be made to the FRA Education Foundation's scholarships on the FRA.org website or any other charity of your choice.

FRA



IS FOR VETERAN

When we're thanked for our service
we reflect on how we served.

The way we had to break in boots.
The times we gathered up our nerve.

The nicknames that made us laugh.
The smell of chili mac MREs.

The pride we felt with that first oath.
The friendships that came to be.

So, at the game, when we're asked to stand,
it's not applause that's in my sight.

I'm looking around for you, my friend,
to see who's on my left and right.



Scan to learn how you can
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THE FRA CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING Shipmates who became Life Members during the third quarter of 2022. The listing, which is arranged alphabetically and by the month joined, includes their branch number or Member-at-Large (MAL) designation. Call 1-800-FRA-1924 to learn how you can become a Life Member of the FRA.

July					
Almazan Efren D.	302	Dicarlo, Anthony	70	Lord, Christopher S.	24
Angeles Daniel	367	Donaghey, Christopher	24	Marcus, Lisa	99
Bagwell Eugene H.	40	Gall, Raymond A.	170	Marquis, William N.	115
Christian, Vernon C.	289	Glenn, Michael	MAL	Martin, Ronald	263
Ciokon, Lisa	MAL	Hayes, Rashalon	24	McCleskey, Kevin B.	MAL
Clement, Parley A.	MAL	Hmel, Leonard J.	208	Morris, Bennie	289
Cleveland, George L.	99	Hunter, Andre	24	Oelze, Steve P.	105
Corder, Donald	261	Johnson, Darryl L.	94	Osborn, Dale P.	MAL
Coulter, Gary W.	20	Jones, Donald E.	292	Palazzo, Anthony J.	24
Dalissera, Nicholas A.	24	Kerrigan, John G.	124	Peters, Kevin	24
Danjczek, Bill	24	Lajoie, Donald S.	MAL	Peterson, Robert A.	22
Davis, Stephen E.	MAL	Larson, Keith A.	136	Polson, Marcus	24
		Leon, Arturo V.	93	Randall, William P.	MAL

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1879	95	1888-O	95
1880	89	1888-S	389
1880-O	119	1889	75
1881-O	79	1889-S	295
1883-O	75	1890	75
1884	79	1890-S	89
1884-O	75	1891	89
1885	75	1891-S	115
1886	75	1896	75
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Schley Jr., Walter H.	161	Mauffray, Philip A.	91	Davis, Andrew B.	24
Shanklin, Dennis M.	316	McCarthy, Thomas W.	261	DeLong, Tony R.	316
Sims, Dannie	61	McConky, David B.	24	Desjardins, Ronald D.	342
Smith, Victor A.	207	Moeller, Gary F.	99	Duke Jr., Richard E.	MAL
Sunday, Nancy A.	181	Morris, Daniel Ian	24	Dye, Karl R.	MAL
Wells, Peter	24	Moseley, Stephen C.	105	Fenwell, Stephen	24
White Sr., Steven H.	24	Mostoller, Bernard	MAL	Foley, Edward C.	162
Williams, Cornell L.	MAL	Nordine, Verna R.	60	French, Christopher	MAL
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Yount, Clarence A.	93	Norwood, Ethan G.F.	32	Glaittli, Dwayne	104
August		Orante, Reynaldo R.	247	Gorday, Victor W.	91
Appleby, Jeffrey	94	Ortiz, Philip J.	289	Heckman, James A.	70
Brazeal, Donald D.	24	Pate, Jon M.	08	Heldenbrand, Thomas	91
Broderick, Patrcik	346	Paulo, Eduardo	08	Hull, Daniel E.	38
Buchanan, Gary L.	61	Remusat, Todd A.	181	Jones, Robert W.	MAL
Carberry, Philip J.	93	Reynolds, Patrick W.	MAL	Jude, Eumismo C.	302
Chadwick, Paul	24	Rios, Lucila	124	Kirchner Jr., Richard	24
Collins, Kevin	MAL	Rivas, Wendy	161	Kostera, Tom	24
Copeland, Nancy	201	Ross, Neil I.	23	Lare, William J.	197
Deckman James R.	24	Rotolo Jr., Manuel L.	MAL	Leisman, John	91
Diaz, Angel	91	Salameda, Jose A.	MAL	Lundgren, Laverne D.	136
Dinero, Anselmo A.	127	Sine, Don T.	24	McNeil, Serle M.	24
Eichinger, Thomas	MAL	Smith, Robert E.	126	Milewski Jr., Venner F.	172
Farley, David	269	Street, Stewart D.	219	Pierce, Charles R.	MAL
Fincham, Donald Q.	93	Swinford, Larry W.	MAL	Porter, Roy	54
Gibbons, Michael P.	102	Thomas, Johnny	293	Redepenning, Larry	238
Harrison, Charles	11	Tipton, Charles P.	50	Serrano, Helmu I.	61
Hill, Darryl	50	Tuton, Philip E.	70	Shelden, Stephen A.	298
Hinton, Will P.	24	Vik, Will A.	307	Shellhammer, Ralph P.	MAL
Holloway, Daniel E.	382	Walters, Ralph L.	264	Shupp, Benjamin	24
Hyatt, Marlon	MAL	Williams, Zachariah D.	289	Stapleton, Jerry W.	290
Jeske, Theresa	316	September		Stover, Edward	269
Kelley, Lucinda J.	24	Andreas, Anthony	MAL	Swetman, Lee	MAL
Killeen, Robert G.	MAL	Batucal, Arthur R.	MAL	Taylor, Michael V.	86
Kluender, Jack K.	294	Baxley Jr., Carey D.	269	Vaughan, Gary W.	86
Kronzer, Michael J.	24	Bright, Lon D.	08	Wagner, John	MAL
Lehr, Charles J.	258	Brooks, Arlen F.	47	Wattenbarger, Martin W.	29
Long, Gerald E.	MAL	Brown, Robert J.	MAL	York, Jackie D.	MAL
MacLean Jr., Rupert E.	24	Bucy, Gary H.	MAL		

1. BRANCH 13, ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

On June 15, Branch 13 made a \$500 donation to the Homecoming 250 Navy & Marine Corps held at the Battleship New Jersey. (L to R) Branch President Kim Youder-Notaro, Chair and President of the Homecoming 250 George S. Leone, CEO of the Battleship New Jersey Philip P. Rowan, Branch Secretary PRP Albert Davenport and Branch VP Bob Campbell.

**2. BRANCH 251, MT. HOME, ARK**

Third Place, grade 10 National Americanism Essay winner Bayleigh Guidry was presented her plaque by Branch Essay Chair Curtis Grant (L) and teacher/counselor Ms. Sandra Woody (R). Guidry attends the Lutie R-VI School in Theodosia, Missouri.

**3. BRANCH 227, SPRINGDALE, ARK.**

Branch President Victor Walker and Secretary Bill Epperson present Emma Flagler of Rogers High School with her first-place certificates from the Americanism Essay Contest at the Ozark Branch and the South Central Region levels.

**4. BRANCH 115, LEHIGH VALLEY, PA.**

(L to R) Bill Seigfried, Andy Smerek and Tim Gilbert partnered with Honorary First Defenders and Naval Greater Lehigh Valley Reserve Association to provide a picnic for homeless men and homeless veterans at Victory House of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. (Not pictured) Jerry Lebeduik and Hans Keller.

**5. BRANCH 90, CLARK COUNTY, NEV.**

During the recent Summerlin 4th of July parade held in Summerlin, Nevada, Branch Secretary/Treasurer Jon Way drove Branch Committee Member Robert Porter through the parade.

**6. BRANCH 162, NEW ORLEANS, LA.**

After the branch annual Two Bell Ceremony, Jerry DuPre (L) with PRPSC Dave Field (R) hold the Memorial Day wreath that was cast upon the water from the riverboat City of New Orleans. This is an annual branch event.





7. BRANCH 269, GOOSE CREEK, S.C.

PNP Don Mucheck (R) presented Willie Thompson (Center) with his 60-Year Continuous Membership Pin. Photo by Branch Secretary John Tharp.

8. BRANCH 316, SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Ozark Empire Branch presented Lauren Matthews her first place and overall winner of the Americanism Essay Contest during the North Central Regional Convention. (L to R) National Essay Chair Norm Combs, NCR Essay Chair Jerry Lickteig, NED Christopher Slawinski, Chris Matthews (dad), Branch Essay Chair Norma Wright, Matthews, Logan Matthews (brother), Beckey (mom) and NP James Campbell.

9. BRANCH 201, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Capitol Branch President Ed Hudson (L) presented Shipmate Charley Randall his 30-Year Membership Pin and Certificate.

10. BRANCH 57, SOUTH JERSEY, N.J.

A recruiting and fund raising event was held at a local home improvement center Aug. 6. Shipmates (L to R seated) Ralph Bagnato, Bob Baltozer and Branch President Mary Rauch. (L to R standing) Terry Williamson and Anthony McDonald. Not pictured are Ron Hoffman, Spence Link and Mike Filinuk.

11. BRANCH 15, WALHALLA, S.C.

A Purple Heart Ceremony was held in Walhalla, South Carolina on Aug. 6. The members who attended (L to R) Branch President Clyde Albertson, Jimmy Hall, Branch Secretary/Treasurer Jim Jones, Branch VP Larry Jones and Joyce Jones.

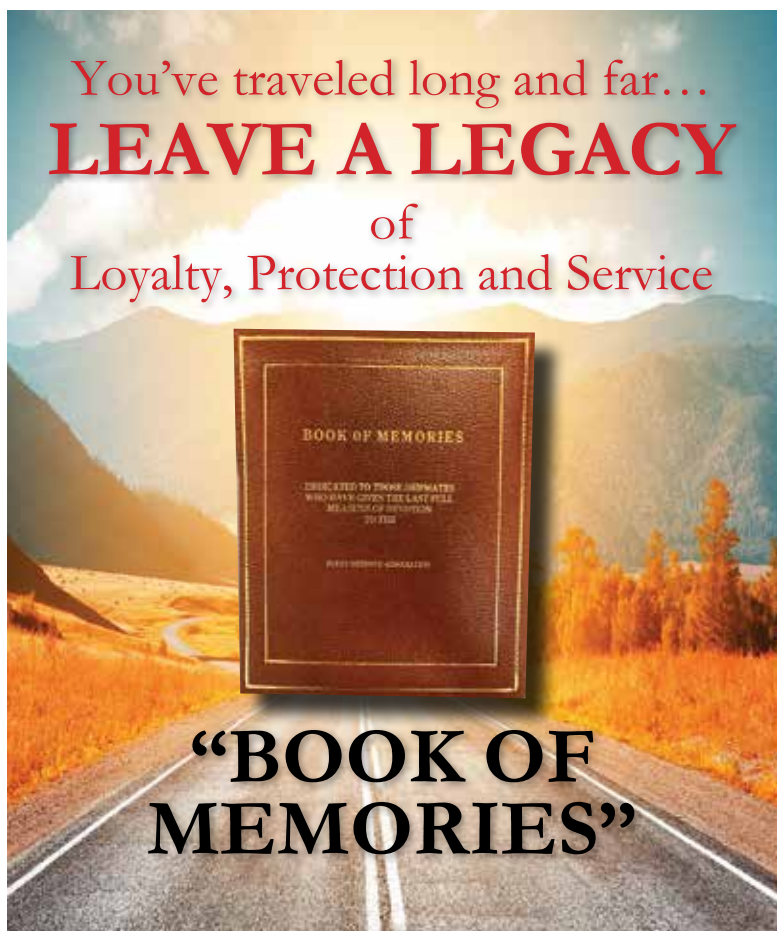
12. BRANCH 299, WILMINGTON, N.C.

Del Herrmann Branch Treasurer Martha Villaseñor (L) and Secretary Frank Roberts (R) provided NSCC Cadet Hailee Suzuki with her Certificate of Appreciation and a monetary award for college. Suzuki graduated high school and aged out of Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Torpedo Squadron 8 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Submit a photo 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.

In Memoriam

Name	Rating	Branch							
Aleguas, Alfred	DPC, USN	MAL	Curzon, David	YNMC, USN	MAL	Garrison, Norris J.	EN2, USN	MAL	
Allen, Kenneth W.	AE2, USN	201	Davis, Jess B.	ACCM, USN	93	Garrison, Otis	SN, USN	MAL	
Anderson, Roger L.	LCDR, USNR	145	De Botts, Frederico	GYSGT, USMC	302	Gast, Michael C.	MACM(SW), USN	259	
Bailey, Donald R.	CPO, USN	137	Deblaker, Richard V.	USN	99	Geiger, Peter C.	POCS, USN	201	
Blake, David A.	LT, USN	259	Deloach, William O.	MSGT, USMC	93	Gentry, John D.	BTC, USN	MAL	
Boone, Kenneth E.	EMCS, USN	41	Dial, Robert E.	PNC, USN	11	Gillette, Eugene L.	HT1, USN	12	
Breault, George O.	ETC, USN	31	Doering, Walter E.	AMSC, USN	MAL	Gillfillan, Robert W.	YN1, USN	12	
Briggs, Bryce	AVCM, USN	68	Dunlavy, George A.	CSCS, USN	MAL	Gowenlock, Curtis W.	RMCM, USN	70	
Chegash, Thomas	LCDR, USN	MAL	Dustmann, Walter H.	YN1E6, USN	212	Graham, John H.	RMC, USN	62	
Choinski, Richard E.	SCGM, USN	MAL	Elliott, Lawrence C.	SHCS, USN	MAL	Guevin, Richard F.	PN1, USN	40	
Christy, Mac	ENC, USN	161	Fairbanks, Richard N.	ADCS, USN	269	Guiher, John H.	BUC, USN	MAL	
Clopton, Frederick	YNC, USN	181	Fairchild, Frederick	CPO, USN	MAL	Guthridge, James T.	BTCs, USN	MAL	
Cohen, Robert A.	JOC, USN	MAL	Fairman, Allyn R.	CPO, USN	MAL	Hale, Harry H.	MCPO, USN	MAL	
Crago, John H.	TMCM(SS), USN	230	Ferguson, Hubert R.	MUCM, USN	24	Hall, Daniel G.	AEC, USN	126	
Cronkite, James E.	AMHC, USN	197	Fitzpatrick, Peter J.	GYSGT, USMC	55	Hendrix, Carl A.	RMCS, USN	112	
Cunningham, Marvin L.	HMCS, USN	MAL	Francisco, Jaime Q.	YNC, USN	08	Hess, Aubrie D.	LT, USN	126	
			Galante, Bernard A.	MMCS, USN	99	Hill, Robert J.	RMC, USN	113	



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Hoover, William V.	ACC, USN	261	Meyer, Donald E.	AMEC, USN	166	Sampson, Cornelius F.	PO1, USN	117
Horton, Ronnie R.	LCDR, USN	MAL	Miller, Max D.	EOC, USN	298	Sampson, George E.	ADRC, USN	MAL
Howell, George H.	YNC, USN	62	Mosholder, Eleanor G.	AE2, USN	60	Schoch, Edward W.	CPO, USN	93
Hudnell, James M.	MRC, USN	161	Nance, John C.	HMC, USN	MAL	Schuller, Albert R.	ATCS, USN	159
Immich, Stanley W.	AEC, USN	MAL	Niergarth, Charles	USMC	289	Searfoss, Kenneth W.	CMC, USN	11
Karlson, James A.	LCPL, USMC	14	Northcutt, Larry D.	YNC, USN	MAL	Shirley, Calvin R.	TMCS(SS), USN	112
Kimmerling, Paul E.	SN, USN	186	O'Brien, George F.	HT1, USN	31	Shows, Bobby R.	ATR3, USN	112
Kinsella, Martin J.	ETCS, USN	MAL	O'Quin, James H.	ETCM, USN	268	Smith, Thomas E.	ABEC, USN	MAL
Knepper, Ned S.	ADJC, USN	60	Oswald, John D.	CMA2, USN	MAL	Smith, Donald M.	MSGT, USMC	MAL
Krause, Reinold L.	PO1, USN	MAL	Patterson, Robert J.	GMG1, USN	MAL	Smore, Ronald J.	EAC, USN	MAL
Lassiter, Jesse	MCPO, USN	210	Peck, Russell J.	PN1, USN	04	Spencer, William E.	HM1, USN	208
Laxton, Gary J.	HMC, USN	MAL	Remz, Harold, DTC	USN	102	Theierl, Fredric	HMCS, USNR	MAL
Lee, Oliver E.	CWO4, USN	MAL	Rice, James W.	MMCM, USN	MAL	Thomas, William L.	CDR, USN	93
Lighty, V K.	AGC, USN	MAL	Richardson, Billy	MGySgt, USMC	MAL	Ussery, Richard L.	AMS1, USN	94
Lindeberg, Harold R.	MA1, USNR	MAL	Rickman, Lawrence R.	ADCS, USN	MAL	Ventolo, Anthony J.	MS1, USN	MAL
Longo, Ignazio	PN1, USN	MAL	Ringgenberg, Verl A.	OSCM, USN	MAL	Whittaker, Susan	RM1, USN	61
Lundstrom, Larry D.	MMCS, USN	227	Risinger, David	CWO3, USN	MAL	Wilcott, Clarke J.	CSC, USA	238
Maitland, Barbara A.	HMCS, USN	MAL	Ruliva, Gabriel L.	EMCS, USN	154	Zinger, Gerard R.	AZCS, USN	MAL
Marsh, Paul H.	ADJC, USN	MAL	Ryan, Frank B.	SHCM, USN	MAL			

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

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Key Questions to Ask to Help You Plan to Pay for Retirement



Carl M. Trevisan, CFP®



Stephen M. Bearce

Your retirement could last 20 years or more. Now could be the time to ask yourself, “What do I want to do when I retire?”

It’s an important question to ask sooner rather than later, as the answer could impact your retirement savings plans, so that you can align the retirement you want with the retirement you can afford. The first two steps in that process are: (1) decide what you want to do, and then (2) determine the potential costs.

The answers to these questions could help you take the first step toward creating the retirement lifestyle you hope to achieve.

What will I be doing during my retirement days?

- Do I plan to continue working past age 65 or after I reach my full retirement age? Full time or part time?
- Are there hobbies I want to pursue that will either cost money or make money?
- Is there volunteer work that may also have costs associated?
- Do I plan to travel?
- Are there things I enjoy doing that have related costs?
- What are the activities that make up my ideal retirement day?

Where will I be living in my retirement years?

- Will I stay in my current home or downsize to a smaller home or a rental property?
- Will I move to a retirement community or assisted living facility?
- Will I sell my home and replace it with an RV or other alternative living option?

What situations might occur that could impact my retirement expenditures?

- What health care coverage do I need for my specific health conditions?
- Do I have an emergency fund for unexpected situations such as a health care crisis or loss of property due to a natural disaster?
- What if I stop working sooner than expected?
- What happens if I experience a significant loss of income?

What are the barriers keeping me from investing?

- I have nothing extra to invest.
- I have education loans or other debt.
- I don’t know how to start an investment plan.
- I have time to start saving later.

Next Steps

Prepare rather than panic. Review the questions above and create an outline from your answers. That outline will give you the framework to calculate the income you may need to support your retirement lifestyle.

Make the decision to adjust your spending patterns today. Choose something that you really don’t need and redirect that amount to a savings or investment account. Take advantage of the growth potential over time. Pay yourself first instead of spending money on something that will not support your future retirement needs. Creating that nest egg now could lessen your stress about money.

Start or add to an emergency fund. Even if the amount seems very small, it is important to take the first step. As that amount grows and the saving behavior becomes a habit, you will likely gain confidence and momentum in your investment activities.

Meet with your financial advisor to review your answers and turn your outline into a plan that will help you work toward your goals. Your advisor has planning tools and other resources to help you identify your retirement income needs.

Revisit your plan on a regular basis. Over time, your goals may change because of opportunities or unexpected events. Periodic reviews can help you assess your progress and fine-tune your strategy.

FRA

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Camp Lejeune MCAS New River

CONTAMINATED WATER

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Members of our Legal Team helped draft the Camp Lejeune Justice Act and invested time and resources advocating for its passage. Members of our team also helped obtain the following jury verdicts in the Johnson & Johnson Talc (baby powder) cases: \$110 million, \$72 million, \$70 million and \$55 million.

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Brad Bradshaw MD JD LG is a law firm. Dr. Brad Bradshaw is not licensed in North Carolina and works/collaborates on Camp Lejeune water cases with staff attorney Chris Johnson (who is the only firm lawyer licensed in North Carolina). On Camp Lejeune cases we may work with additional North Carolina attorneys, such as local counsel, another law firm, etc. plus the Under Law Firm who are members of the team that obtained some of the multi-million dollar verdicts in the J&J talc cases, but are not licensed in North Carolina. Brad Bradshaw MD JD LG, North Carolina office, 3807 Regencyville Ave, Suite 200 Wilmington, NC 28403. Sola Taghdiri office, 201 W. 47th St, Kansas City, MO 64112. Additional offices in Seattle, Springfield, MO, and St. Louis. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. All offices are by appointment only. We work with and refer cases to other lawyers. Dr. Brad Bradshaw is licensed to practice law in Washington D.C. (inactive), Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Washington, Hawaii, and is applying for licensure in North Carolina. Dr. Bradshaw is licensed to practice medicine in Missouri and Hawaii. See bradbradshaw.com for more information. Client may be responsible for costs or expenses. Past results afford no guarantee of future results and every case is different and must be judged on its own merits. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers. Services may not be available in all states.