



BENEFITS OF FRA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to our effective lobbying and advocacy, FRA offers its members a host of information and benefits that will enhance the value of your membership. We have designed a menu of supplemental programs and assistance tailored to the needs of shipmates and their families throughout their lives.

Expert Information

Influence in Congress—Imagine a world where your Congressional representatives seek you out for your opinion, and where you are invited to testify before committees. That is the power you gain when you unite with FRA, the only organization devoted exclusively to the interests of Sea Services personnel

An Advocate on Capitol Hill

- Inform members of Congress—most of whom have no military experience—on issues important to you and other enlisted personnel
- Testifies before Congressional committees advocating improved health care, increased pay and adequate funding for programs that benefit you and other enlisted Sea Services personnel, retirees, veterans, their families and survivors
- Sponsors legislative briefings and offers updates to keep you informed about threats to your pay and benefits
- Intervenes on your behalf with government departments and agencies regarding career issues and veterans programs.
- Members can use the FRA Action Center which is the primary grassroots tool for FRA's advocacy program on Capitol Hill and in the federal bureaucracy. The Association's advocacy program is directly related to the Association's mission and intended to give voice to member concerns regarding pay, health care, survivor benefits, education, housing, child care and other quality-of-life programs.

Accomplishments (2018)

- Blocked a huge TRICARE fee increase that would have doubled annual fees for TRICARE beneficiaries under age 65;
- Passed the Agent Orang Blue Water Navy bill (H.R. 299) out of the House (failed in Senate Committee);
- Expanded VA caregiver program to include all severely disabled veterans. Original program applied to badly disabled veterans that were injured after September 11, 2001;
- Enacted larger than requested by the Administration annual active duty pay increase (2.6%) that keeps pace with civilian pay increases (largest in 9 years);
- Supported legislation (HR 333) to provide payment of full military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all disabled retirees;
- Successfully enacted legislation to ensure Post 911 GI Bill beneficiaries get their housing stipend in a timely manner;
- Repealed a scheduled one percent cut in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for active duty;
- Supported legislation (H.R. 3011) to authorize retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse for the month in which the retiree was alive for at least 24 hours;
- Supported legislation to pay the Coast Guard during a government shutdown;
- Reduced proposed rent increases for residents at Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) for next year and phasing in next year's scheduled huge fee increase over three years;
- Prohibited AFRH from removing residents only because they are unable to pay rent;

- Increased Navy and Marine Corps reserve and active duty end strength for FY 2019;
- Consolidated seven VA community care programs into one to improve efficiency and access to care;
- Expanded availability of Military One Source for retired and discharged members of the Armed Forces;
- Allowed Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, former POW, and service-connected disability veterans, and caregiver for disabled veterans to use commissaries and MWR facilities;
- Filed a Senate floor amendment to the FY 2019 Defense Authorization bill, at FRA's request, to expand concurrent receipt. Amendment was not called for a vote;
- Permitted veterans, who have a 100 percent service connected disability, to utilize a travel benefit currently extended to active duty and retired military members and their families to travel on military aircraft when there is extra space onboard.
- Mandated maximum life insurance coverage for service members deployed in a combat zone; and
- Increased VA funding (6.1%) for FY 2019.

Quality Services

- **Affordable group insurance programs**—FRA uses the buying power of thousands of shipmates to negotiate group discounts on health, life, accident and other insurance programs. Your FRA members-only rates are often lower than what you could find on your own in the marketplace, and often with greater plan benefits.
- **Administering scholarship programs**—The FRA Education Foundation offers financial aid to FRA family members, awarding more than \$100,000 each year to deserving students.
- **Sponsoring an annual Americanism Essay Contest** to promote patriotism among youth.
- **A Disaster Relief Fund** to aid victims of natural disasters.
- **FRAtoday Magazine**—Stay current on issues affecting your pay, retired pay and entitlements. FRAtoday also includes news on your membership benefits, conventions, reunions and updates from Branches and Auxiliary Units.

Money-saving Discounts

- **Protection for your finances**—Take advantage of members-only card programs and other financial tools.
- **My advisors and Personal Insurance Website**—visit www.frainsure.com, you will have access to several valuable insurance plans, articles, videos, checklists, calculators and a variety of other tools that can help you make smart financial decisions about your family and future. Take advantage of this convenient and no-cost benefit of your FRA membership.

Personal Connections

- **Access to assistance and information**—Know what you're entitled to for your military benefits and how to access them. FRA can help you with your retired pay and military benefit questions. We can help you get action to resolve your concerns.
- **Branch membership**—Meet shipmates, share experiences and support local community outreach programs.