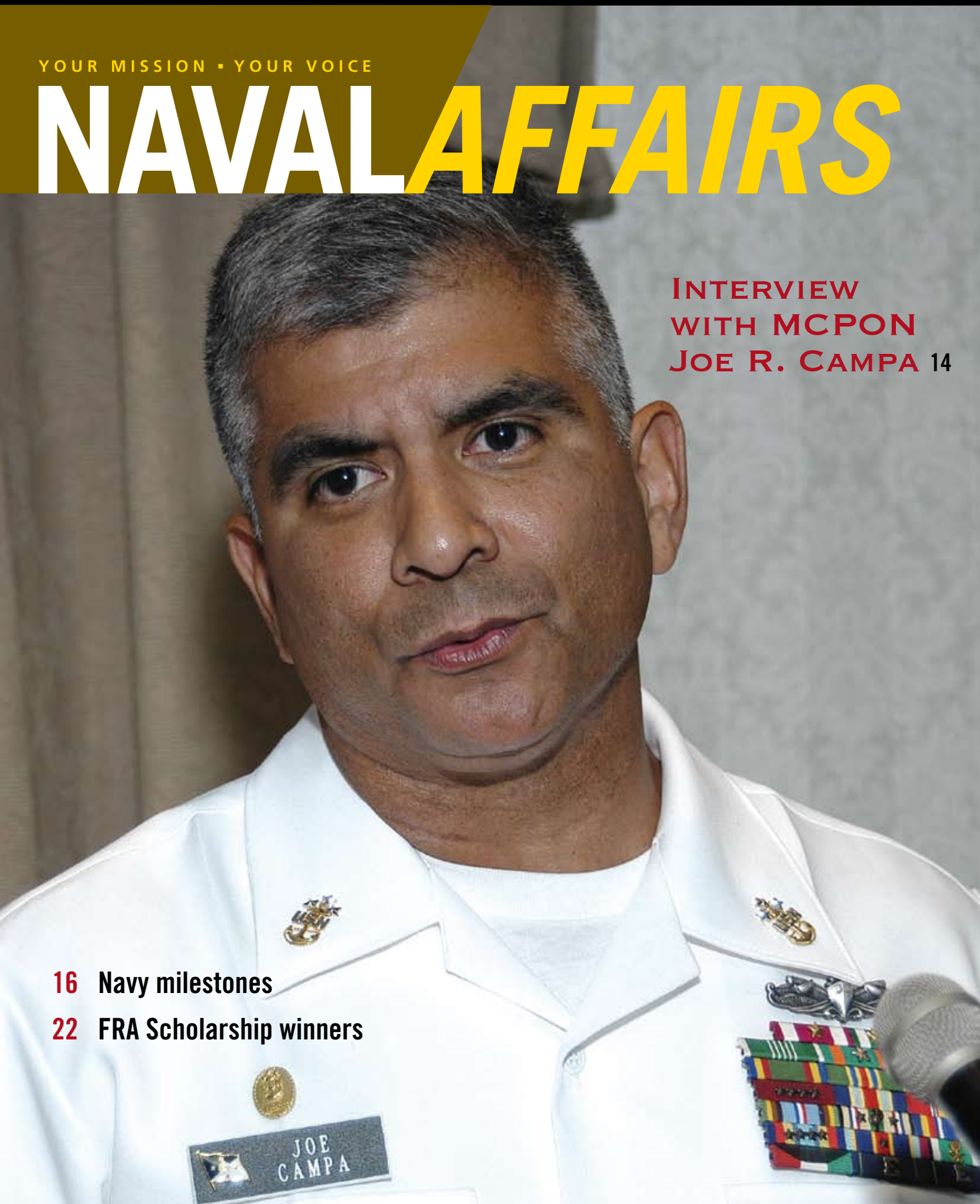
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NAVAL AFFAIRS



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16 Navy milestones

22 FRA Scholarship winners



Asbestos Cancer Hits Former Sailors

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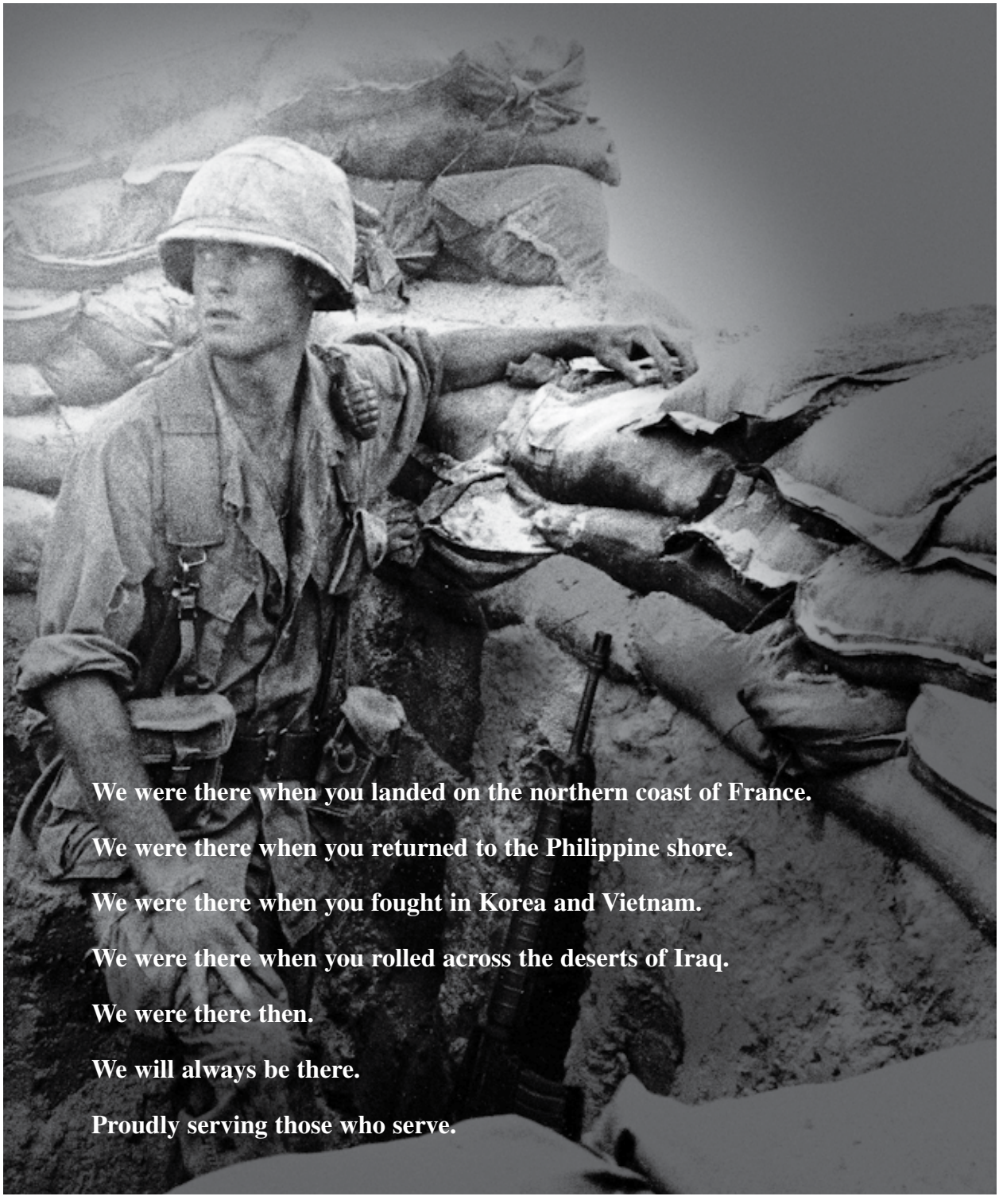
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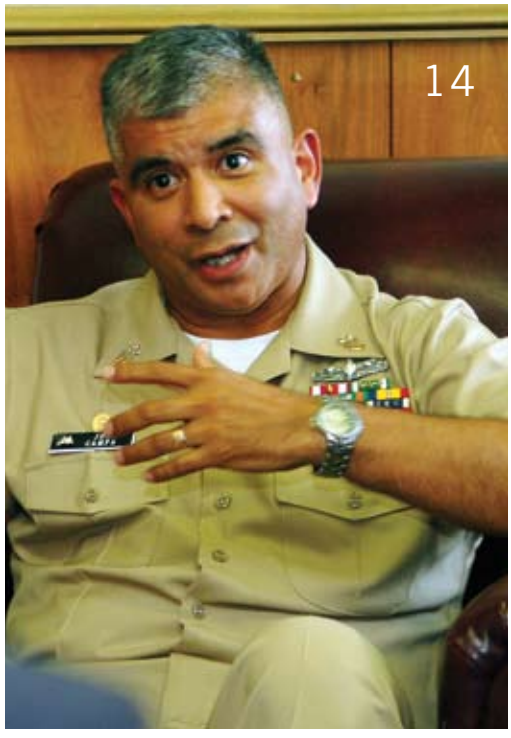
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ON THE COVER
MCPON Joe. R. Campa at the 2006 Sailors of the Year Reception in July. Photo by: Vince Cuthie.

FROM THE EDITOR



SAN REDDY
Editor

THE U.S. NAVY MARKS its 231st anniversary this month and we are proud to dedicate this issue to the remarkable men and women who have served our Nation with honor, courage and commitment since 1775.

Inspiring leadership has always been a key factor to the success of the U.S. Navy, and no one epitomizes this more than the newly-appointed 11th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa, who succeeded MCPON Terry Scott in July this year. In an exclusive and wide-ranging interview with Contributing Editor Lauren Armstrong, MCPON Campa outlines his "vision" for his new role and emphasizes how ongoing education, coupled with real life experience, can create effective leaders for the Navy.

FRA is dedicated to nurturing a new generation of leaders to meet the challenges of the future, and we are therefore delighted to announce the names of FRA's 2006 Scholarship Program winners, which has been transforming lives since it was launched in 1962. We encourage members and their families to take full advantage of this outstanding educational opportunity.

With the prospect of hefty TRICARE increases in the future, many service members are concerned about how they will be able to afford quality health care without making cutbacks in other areas of their lives. Army Major General Elder Granger, Deputy Director for TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), tackled this burning issue head on when he spoke to *Naval Affairs* recently. (See page 10)

Thank you for your continuous feedback — your questions, critiques and suggestions add depth, lively debate and diversity to this publication.

Please contribute to *Shipmate Forum, Looking for...* and *News from the Branches.* We also encourage you to send us publication-quality photos so that we can showcase many of the outstanding outreach initiatives, special events and projects in your region or branch.

San Reddy is Editor of *Naval Affairs,* and can be contacted at san@fra.org.



UPCOMING FEATURES

NOVEMBER	National Museum of the U.S. Marine Corps USMC Birthday Veterans Day & FRA's Birthday
DECEMBER	Technology
JANUARY	Education — Scholarships and Options
FEBRUARY	Interview with Iwo Jima survivors

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New Look Naval Affairs

Congratulations on the update, upgrade and layout that you have made to the *Naval Affairs* magazine. The section on the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act was very nicely done with an easy-to-read, boxed-in chart breakdown — Issue/Senate/ House/ Comments. I noted that under the Reserve retirement category, the Senate proposed lowering the minimum age for retirement and the House did not provide a provision. I thought that there were a couple of bills in the House to lower the Reserve retirement age and I was surprised to see nothing listed. When you are working on issues for Congress, please consider asking for a reduction in the retirement age for Reservists as it may be a tool for Reservists and Guardsmen recruitment and retention. Thank you for your hard work in D.C. and for the representation that FRA does for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard on Capitol Hill!

Bill Phillips, MCPO, USCG Reserve (Ret.)

Can Medals & Ribbons be worn together?

Please clarify why Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard "Skip" Bowen (on front cover *Naval Affairs,* August 2006) is wearing ribbons on the right-hand side of his uniform and medals on the left. Since when do you wear both ribbons and medals together?

Wesley D. Morrett MSGT, USMC (Ret.)

Editor's note: *We had many queries on this issue. In accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations, medals are worn over the left pocket, and the remaining ribbons that don't have medals, are worn over the right pocket. These are worn year-round when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in Change of Command ceremonies (as in the case of MCPOG Bowen's photo), official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and solemnities.*

Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (USFSPA)

In response to TMC Ronald Sessler's letter in *Naval Affairs* (June 2006), I wish to add that it is very obvious that not a single member of Congress cares for military personnel.... Instead of millions to illegal immigrants, first give military retirees back their money in alimony and COLAs that goes to the "remarried" spouses. I mean, five COLA increases for five checks is wrong. Hiding the truth is also wrong!

Vance Alquist, USN (Ret.)

Expanding the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)

The House Armed Services Committee is covertly plotting against those who accept our Nation's call to arms as a career, again. This time, the plan is to expand DFAS authority to service *all* former spouse court orders, to garnish uniformed service personnel' retired from active duty pay as jointly earned marital property. House Joint Conference delegates, chosen to make this extremely harmful closed door decision, remain anonymous to avoid embarrassing publicity during their re-election campaigns. We should not hesitate to return the favor on 7 November 2006. That's called government by the people!

Dennis Egge, Life Member, FRA Branch 46

Editor's note: *FRA is working to encourage the introduction and enactment of legislation to eliminate inequities in the USFSPA. Recently an amendment was added to S2766, the Senate version of the FY2007 Defense Authorization Act eliminating the "10 Year Rule" and allows for DFAS cost-of-living adjustments if ordered by court and targeted members to waive DFAS notification requirements. FRA supports all of the recommendations in the Department of Defense's September 2001 report, which did an assessment of USFSPA inequities and recommendations for improvement. The piecemeal approach of using selective provisions from the DoD Report only increases the unbalanced tilt of this act toward the former spouse. FRA believes Congress needs to take a hard look at the USFSPA with a sense of purpose to amend the language so that the federal government is required to protect its service members against state courts that ignore provisions of the Act.*

"FRA believes Congress needs to take a hard took at the USFSPA..."

Editor's Correction: *Naval Affairs* apologizes for the inadvertent typographical error in PNP Stanley S. Nahill's obituary last month. The correct caption should have read: "PNP Stanley S. Nahill, U.S. Navy Retired, **1931–2006**, FRA National President 1968–1969."

Submissions Send *Shipmate Forum* letters to: Editor, FRA, 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail submissions may be sent to nafra@fra.org. Please include "Shipmate Forum" in the subject line. FRA reserves the right to select and edit letters for publication. Letters published in *Shipmate Forum* reflect the opinions and views of FRA members. They do not necessarily reflect the official position of FRA as a whole. FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content.

FRA and the Position of MCPON

THE NAVY'S 231ST BIRTHDAY and the recent selection of HMCM (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa, Jr. as the 11th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) provide an opportunity to reflect on FRA's role in establishing this important position.

Forty years ago House Armed Services Committee Chairman L. Mendel Rivers (S.C.), added an amendment to the 1967 military pay bill authorizing the Navy, Army and Air Force to establish equivalent positions to the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps which was established by that service in 1958.



JOE BARNES
FRA's National Executive Secretary

According to the late Robert Nolan, FRA's National Executive Secretary from 1965 to 1989, "The Navy's hierarchy was not overly enthusiastic about the idea" and decided that the E-8/E-9 selection board would select the "leading chief of the Navy." The board met and picked 11 candidates from which four finalists were chosen, and on 13 January 1967 Master Chief Gunner's Mate Delbert D. Black, USN, a member of FRA Virginia Beach Branch 166, became the first Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Navy.

Writing in *Brotherhood of the Sea,* Nolan stated that unlike his Army and Navy counterparts who were taken to Capitol Hill for introductions to key members of Congress, there was no effort made by the Navy to introduce Black to congressional leaders.

To remedy this, Nolan arranged a breakfast meeting to introduce Black with Rivers and committee counsel John R. "Russ" Blandford. During the meeting, Nolan referenced the Navy's "grudging" acceptance of the new position and indicated that FRA believed it should be titled Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. He also stated that whoever served in this position — and equivalent positions in the other services — should receive more basic pay than other enlisted personnel.

After breakfast Nolan and Black went to Rivers' office where Blandford drafted a letter to the Secretary of the Navy about these and other concerns. The Navy balked at changing the title because "stationery had already been printed" — however, after further pressure from the Hill, Black advised Nolan that his title had changed and was now Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. In addition, the 1967 pay bill included a new basic pay rate for the top four senior enlisted advisors for their respective services.

This historical insight is offered as a reminder of the importance and effectiveness of FRA's advocacy work on Capitol Hill in support of MCPON Black, his successors and the entire Sea Services enlisted community. Many who are serving in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard today are unaware of the difference between policy issues and legislative initiatives, and do not necessarily understand how the legislative process works. With regard to the latter, FRA has a long and productive history of interacting with House and Senate leaders and staff personnel to share the concerns of our enlisted Shipmates with regard to compensation, health care, benefits and quality of life programs. This is hands on work involving extensive research, the preparation and presentation of testimony before key oversight committees, continuing dialog with members and staff throughout the legislative cycle each year and the tracking of numerous bills addressing issues that are part of FRA extensive legislative agenda.

Another aspect of FRA's commitment to the Navy and its senior enlisted leadership was the establishment of MCPON Hall at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. The facility is open to the public and features photos and memorabilia for all MCPONs, and former MCPON Terry Scott's portrait and other items significant to his tenure were recently added to the display.

During the March 1998 dedication ceremony, MCPON John Hagan spoke on behalf of all the former MCPONs and acknowledged FRA's work. He emphasized FRA's unique status as the only Sea Service specific organization in existence and pointed to the vital importance of the strong support of FRA on Navy personnel issues. He said: "FRA does things for us which we cannot do for ourselves. I hate to think of a U.S. Navy without an FRA." I urge all Shipmates and others to visit MCPON Hall adjacent the Recruit Training Command when they are in the Great Lakes, IL area.

Congratulations to MCPON Campa who relieved the 10th MCPON Terry Scott at ceremonies at the Washington Navy Yard on 10 July 2006. He follows in the footsteps of Scott and his predecessors MCPONs James Herdt (1998-2002), John Hagan (1992-1998), Duane Bushey (1988-1992), Bill Plackett (1986-1988), Billy Sanders (1982-1986), Tom Crow (1979-1982), Bob Walker (1975-1979), Jack Whittet (1971-1975) and of course Del Black (1967-1971).

And finally Happy Birthday to all Active, Reserve, Retired and Veterans of our magnificent United States Navy.

Joe Barnes is FRA's National Executive Secretary and Chairman of the National Committee on Legislative Service. A member of Navy Department Branch 181, he is also an advisor to the National Committees on Budget and Finance and Membership and Retention.

FY 2007 NDAA Includes Many FRA Priorities

AS *NAVAL AFFAIRS* GOES to print, House and Senate Conferees are working to complete the conference report on the FY2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) before they recess in late September, in anticipation of the upcoming election.

Issues addressed in both bills include required studies on cost-saving health care initiatives; eliminating mail-order pharmacy co-pays; increased U.S. Marine Corps end-strength; targeted pay increases for senior enlisted personnel, plus recruiting and retention bonuses. Also noteworthy is Sec. 589 of the House bill that would restate congressional intent that the TRICARE for Life trust fund deposit should NOT be charged against the defense budget – a practice that use to significantly inflate total annual health care costs and justify drastic fee increases proposed for military retirees. However, there are significant differences between the versions of the FY2007 NDAA passed by both the House and Senate. FRA wrote to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, Sen. John W. Warner (Va.) and Rep. Duncan Hunter (Calif.), respectively, and Ranking Member Sen. Carl Levin (Mich.)and Rep. Ike Skelton (Mo.), respectively, offering recommendations on key issues in the FY2007 NDAA.



JOHN DAVIS
FRA's Director of Legislative Programs

Health Care Issues

FRA strongly opposes the proposed TRICARE Standard enrollment fee and is concerned about establishing a one-time enrollment fee of $25 ($40 for families) for TRICARE Standard per Sec.723 of the Senate bill. There are already substantial costs associated with this option and there is no access guarantee associated with the establishment of an enrollment fee.

FRA members are concerned about language in both the House and Senate versions of the FY2007 NDAA that would prevent employers who hire military retirees from providing incentives to compel them to enroll in the TRICARE health care program as an alternative to more expensive employer-provided health care plans. While the intent of this language is to help reduce the soaring health care costs, an inadvertent result may be to penalize military retirees because their employers would be forbidden from helping pay their TRICARE expenses or supplemental coverage.

SBP Reform

FRA strongly supports the Senate provision (Sec. 643) changing the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) paid-up-date to 1 October 2006 for participants of 30 or more years who have attained the age of 70. This inequity is a major concern for our members. The repeal of the SBP/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset is also addressed in this provision.

Concurrent Receipt

FRA supports the Senate provision (Sec. 649) that authorizes an end to the benefit offset on military retirees deemed 100 percent "unemployable" by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) retroactively to 1 January 2005. FRA strongly supports full concurrent receipt for all disabled military retirees and last year Congress voted to end this unfair practice — but not until 2009.

Pay Increase

FRA strongly supports the House provision (Sec. 601) to increase active duty pay by 2.7 percent to further close the pay gap between civilian and military pay. The Senate version provides for a 2.2 percent pay increase.

RESERVE ISSUES

FRA supports the following provisions important to Reserve personnel:

- A House provision (Sec. 709) that authorizes expanded eligibility for selected Reserve personnel;
- The Senate provision (Sec.706) that makes improvements to TRICARE Reserve coverage and limits FY2007 TRICARE premium increase for Guard/Reserve members commensurate with annual pay adjustments;
- The Senate provision (Sec. 648) that lowers the minimum retirement age for Reservists and Guards based on a formula of three months below age 60 for each 90 days mobilized since 11 September 2001;
- The Senate provision (Sec. 570A) that allows Reservists to draw on their Montgomery GI Bill benefits up to 10 years after service, just like active duty personnel.

Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (USFSPA)

FRA is concerned that provisions (Sections 644, 645 and 646) in the Senate bill only eliminates the ten-year rule, allows for Defense Financing and Accounting Service (DFAS) cost-of-living adjustments if ordered by the court and allows targeted members to waive DFAS notification requirements. The Association questions why other recommendations in the long-delayed Department of Defense (DoD) report of September 2001 are not addressed — particularly the need to prohibit awarding retired pay division before retirement. The federal government should do significantly more to protect service members from state courts that ignore provisions of the USFSPA.

Beneficiaries Happy with Mail-order Prescriptions

A recent TRICARE survey of pharmacy beneficiaries who use mail-order prescriptions indicates that 97 percent are satisfied with the service and that the use of home delivery by mail is up by 7 percent in 2006. FRA supports reducing or eliminating all mail-order co-pays to boost use of this lowest cost option for beneficiaries to receive prescription medications. FRA is advocating for the elimination of all co-pays for mail-orders in the final version of the FY2007 NDAA because it saves beneficiaries money and reduces the cost of the program for DoD.



DLP Davis to Testify before HVAC

As we go to press, FRA's Director of Legislative Programs (DLP), John Davis is scheduled to testify before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on 20 September 2006, representing National President Ed Zerr who was presiding at the 79th National Convention. Davis's testimony expresses the deep concern of many FRA members about the lapse in data Security at the VA. FRA fully supports the legislative efforts of the committee that includes approving (H.R. 5835), a bill which aims to create more accountability at the VA for data Security. It would create an Office of the Under Secretary for Information Security and would require the VA to report to Congress after any data theft, and provide credit monitoring and fraud remediation for affected individuals. Additionally, the bill would require a study on using personal identification numbers rather than Social Security numbers for veterans' benefits. FRA is mindful that legislation alone cannot fully remedy an internal bureaucratic culture that gives data Security a low priority, but FRA believes that it is now time for Congress to do its part to correct this problem. The full testimony is posted on www.fra.org.

Other Issues in the NDAA

FRA strongly supports the following:

- Senate provision (Sec. 666) that prohibits creditors from imposing an annual percentage rate higher than 36 percent when extending consumer credit to service members or their dependants;
- The House provision (Sec. 632) allowing shipment of two Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) for military personnel assigned to duty in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico and other territories;
- The Senate provision (Sec. 631) that requires the DoD to provide full replacement value for lost or damaged household goods in contracts with movers in conjunction with the long-delayed "Families First" program;
- The House provision (Sec. 905) to change the name of the Secretary of the Navy to Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Continuing Resolution Keeps Government Operating

Lawmakers are not expected to complete work on FY2007 spending bills until after the beginning of the new fiscal year that started 1 October 2006. In order to keep the government operating in the new fiscal year, Congress approved a stopgap spending measure. The Senate did add $13.1 billion to the fiscal 2007 Defense appropriations bill (H.R. 5631), an amount that would give the Marine Corps and Army most of the funds they would need to repair and replace equipment lost or damaged in war-ravaged Iraq and Afghanistan. It would add $7.8 billion for the Army and $5.3 billion for the Marine Corps. The sizeable add-on comes after escalating concerns of a lack of combat readiness due to insufficient funding for repairing, upgrading and replacing equipment for the Marine Corps and Army.



STOP Predatory Lending!

ABC News aired a segment on the impact of predatory lending on military families. FRA assisted ABC News with background information on this issue. Part of the news report included an interview with former MCPON Terry Scott. USA Today also featured a front page story on military predatory lending on 31 August 2006, indicating that as many as one in five members of the armed services are being preyed on by loan centers set up near military bases that can charge cash-strapped military families interest of 400 percent or more. The DoD issued an overdue report on predatory lending that urges Congress to enact protective measures, including a 36 percent cap on annual interest rates for loans to service members and their dependants. The report concludes that predatory lending undermines military readiness, harms the morale of troops and their families, and adds to the cost of fielding an all-volunteer fighting force. The DoD report was mandated by an amendment to the 2006 NDAA sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Dole (N.C.) last year. In June 2006, the Senate passed an FRA-supported amendment, sponsored by Senators Jim Talent (Mo.) and Bill Nelson (Fla.), consistent with the 36 percent cap in the DoD report. Predatory lenders target active duty members who, in many cases, are paying over 800 percent interest on loans. FRA has been in the forefront of supporting legislation to protect service members from predatory lenders.

NES Barnes "Talks Back"

In a letter to the *Navy Times* (14 August 2006), NES Joe Barnes responded to Lawrence J. Korb and Peter Ogden's column "Talk Back" (*Navy Times*, 31 July 2006), pointing out that the writers failed to reference important facts in their discussions about "inconvenient truths" regarding defense spending. "Years of low pay, particularly for career enlisted personnel, and the promise of health care for life are facts routinely ignored in discussing so called "spiraling" personnel costs. Military service is unlike work in any other field; and benefits are hard-earned through arduous and often dangerous duty away from family. … Compensation and benefits for all segments of the military — active, reserve, retired, veterans and survivors — are integral to sustain adequate recruiting, retention and readiness."

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS EXPANDED

Veterans who patrolled the waters off Vietnam can claim disability benefits for exposure to Agent Orange under a ruling issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims that opens the door for thousands of service members to seek medical coverage. Previously the VA only allowed claims from service members who had served in country. The court decision stated that it did not make sense for veterans who patrolled Vietnam's inland waterways, and those simply passing through the country, to receive medical coverage while those serving at sea do not. The ruling was issued in a case of a former sailor who served on an ammunition ship during the Vietnam War but never stepped foot on land.

FRA, DoD Meet on Healthcare

Bob Washington, FRA's Healthcare Advisor, and John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs participated in a special conference call meeting with Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and Major General Elder Granger, Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) to discuss the President's executive order to require federal agencies which handle health care to work together to implement a homogenized electronic health record. The agencies, including the VA, will coordinate with the DoD so that clinical information can be exchanged efficiently. A standardized electronic health record will make sharing information between health care providers more cost effective, and help advance the FRA goal of providing a seamless transition from DoD to VA. The order will be phased in by 1 January 2007, and will eliminate the costs of record duplication.

WARNING: TRICARE Reimbursement Changes!

FRA recently learned that on 1 October 2006 TRICARE will no longer reimburse a TRICARE for Life (TFL) claim from a beneficiary who has seen a provider that has opted-out of Medicare. An opt-out Medicare provider is one who notifies Medicare that they are no longer seeking Medicare payment for their patients and cannot submit claims. Reconfirm that your provider will accept Medicare or select another provider that does.

In other health care news a federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit against the DoD over health services at the U.S. Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Washington, D.C. A group of veterans living at the home filed a class-action grievance last year claiming that sweeping budget cuts by the Pentagon resulted in inferior medical care.

Future of TRICARE

Major General Elder Granger, USA, Deputy Director for TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), visited FRA headquarters recently to discuss issues of mutual interest and to explore ways for the Department of Defense (DoD) and FRA to work together in the best interests of health beneficiaries. In a wide-ranging interview following his visit, General Granger spoke to Naval Affairs about the future of TRICARE and what FRA members can do to help contain costs.



Photo provided by TMA Public Affairs

FRA: ***Where do you see TRICARE in 5 to 10 years from now?***

GRANGER: By controlling costs, eliminating waste and focusing on quality, we will continue to improve the TRICARE benefit five, 10 and many more years in the future. We have to be forward-thinking to accomplish our mission — taking care of America's military men and women, and their families, during and after their service. We want to continue to provide our beneficiaries with an extensive health care benefit that is responsive to their needs. Only by sustaining a superior health benefit now can we ensure our ability to serve our beneficiaries for the long run.

One of our key goals for sustaining the benefit is to provide tools for beneficiaries to better manage their health and reduce risk of disease. These include: teaching our beneficiaries how to make healthy choices to prevent or minimize the risks of disease; educating beneficiaries about early prevention through regular checkups to help detect and properly treat illnesses and prevent behaviors that can lead to conditions such as obesity; and prevention programs that reduce the cost of chronic disease, because our beneficiaries will require fewer hospital stays and emergency room visits. We will also continue to enhance our pharmacy program while reducing its costs.

Our strategies include: encouraging the use of the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP), which is more convenient, more efficient and less costly for beneficiaries and DoD; and raising beneficiary awareness of TRICARE's mandatory generic drug policy and its benefits. Generics are less expensive for beneficiaries and DoD, and are as safe as brand-name drugs.

FRA: ***Why is it necessary for a huge increase in TRICARE fees?***

GRANGER: We are not proposing changes that will burden our beneficiaries with disproportionate increases. We do have an obligation to make fiscally-responsible decisions to ensure that TRICARE remains affordable for our current service members, our veterans who protected our Nation in the past and their family members. Health care costs have doubled since FY 2001 and they continue to rise. We must move in the right direction by partnering with patients and controlling costs to enhance and maintain a comprehensive TRICARE benefit. The slight cost adjustments we propose would be carefully implemented.

Most of the changes would affect retirees under age 65. Active duty members would continue to have zero co-pays. Active duty family member cost-sharing would slightly increase, and catastrophic caps would remain low

FRA Supports the Reserves!

John Davis, FRA's Director of Legislative Programs, participated in a roundtable discussion at the National Guard and Reserve Commission. The Commission has been charged by Congress to recommend changes in law and policy necessary to ensure that the National Guard and Reserves are able to meet the Nation's Security requirements now and in the future. This hearing examined what changes in policy and practice might improve the process of mobilization, activation and demobilization. Davis told the commission that increasing demands on Reservists to perform multiple missions abroad over longer periods of time, necessitates improved compensation/benefits packages to attract recruits and retain currently serving personnel. Out-dated and inadequate benefits for Reservists can only undermine long-term retention/readiness. Extended use of Reserves is an indication that we do not have adequate numbers of active-duty personnel to meet the demands of fighting the War on Terror and sustaining other operational commitments. The Commission is scheduled to issue its final report 1 March 2007.

For the first time in its history the Marine Corps will recall thousands of Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Marines to active duty, due to a shortage of volunteers for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. As many as 2,500 Marines could be recalled at any one time. No limit has been set on the total number of Marines who may be forced back into service in the future.

for active duty family members ($1,000) and for retirees and their families ($3,000).

FRA: *Are any other options being considered?*

GRANGER: We are proposing changes to some annual enrollment fees, co-pays and deductibles in FY 2007 and FY 2008. These changes would help us achieve a financial balance between government and individual health care contributions. We will avoid the need for large-scale benefit changes in the future by making annual adjustments that reflect rising federal health costs. Benefit adjustments are necessary now to ensure future U.S. military capability and a strong national defense. Even after changes, TRICARE will remain superior to the best private employer plans.

FRA: *What key factors are contributing to the growth in DoD's medical spending?*

GRANGER: Costs have grown due to many factors: expansion of benefits, increased use by retiree beneficiaries, inflation and ten years of unchanged TRICARE Prime enrollment premiums. Beneficiaries paid 27 percent of total costs in 1995 and are paying 12 percent today for a significantly enhanced benefit. Recent major enhancements for active duty members and their families include: the introduction of TRICARE Prime Remote; the elimination of all TRICARE Prime cost-sharing for care delivered by civilian providers; and the addition of TRICARE Reserve Select for activated Guard and Reserve members and their families. Major enhancements for retirees and their families include: a reduced catastrophic cap for retirees under age 65 from $7,500 to $3,000; the addition of a civilian prescription drug benefit for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries; and the Introduction of TRICARE For Life, which established TRICARE as a Second payer to Medicare for dual-eligible beneficiaries.

FRA: *How can DoD make TRICARE more cost-effective without hiking the TRICARE fees?*

GRANGER: High costs within the health care industry have caused the Military Health System to examine its business processes to ensure efficient operation. This will reduce costs, and these savings can be passed on to our beneficiaries while sustaining the benefit. Our transformation into a joint medical organization will help DoD provide quality medical care to active duty personnel, retirees, National Guard and Reserve service members and their families well into the future. Another example of our efforts to make health care more cost-effective is to encourage changes in pharmacy usage. Our strategy includes encouraging the use of the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy. We are also working to increase awareness of generic drugs. Receiving medications through the Mail Order Pharmacy and requesting generic drugs are two ways patients can save themselves and the Department money. Greater emphasis on prevention will also pay off in reduced costs in the future. To that end, TRICARE now covers preventive colonoscopy every ten years for TRICARE beneficiaries age 50 and above, as well as the common blood test for colon cancer screening. And our Healthy Choices demonstrations target risk increasing behaviors. Reducing tobacco use, alcohol abuse and obesity will result in a healthier population, reducing the need for health care in the future. These initiatives are not enough to stem the tide of rising health care costs. But changes now will allow us to sustain excellence in quality and customer service while keeping our system financially stable for the long term. The TRICARE benefit will remain one of the best health benefits offered in this country — we serve a special population, and they deserve the best!

Back Pay for Disabled Retirees… Coming Soon?

DoD and VA are finalizing a plan for allocating the cost of about $500 million in back pay to more than 100,000 military retirees with VA-rated disabilities. The retroactive payments are owed to nearly half of all recipients of Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) since those programs began in 2003 and in 2004. VA and DoD are not yet ready to announce the date when back payments will be made. The ballpark figure on money to be distributed is about a half billion. VA is expected to cover 60 percent of that amount and DoD the remainder. The size of payments, which might average between $4,000 and $5,000, will depend on rank, level of disability and the period covered. FRA will report more on this issue as developments occur.

The FRA legislative team is: Joe Barnes, National Executive Secretary; John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs; Ed Dockery, Assistant Director of Legislative Programs; Bob Washington, Director of Membership Development and Chris Slawinski, National Veterans Service Officer

Your Mission ▪ Your Voice

ONWATCH

A QUICK GUIDE TO TRICARE STANDARD, TRICARE EXTRA REMOTE AND TRICARE OVERSEAS

STANDARD COVERAGE

TRICARE Standard is the basic TRICARE health care program, offering comprehensive health care coverage for people not enrolled in TRICARE Prime. (Active duty service members (ADSM) must take action to enroll in Prime, and many other beneficiaries choose to enroll in Prime also.) Standard does not require enrollment.

Standard is a fee-for-service plan that gives beneficiaries the option to see any TRICARE-certified/authorized provider (doctor, nurse-practitioner, lab, clinic, etc.). Standard offers the greatest flexibility in choosing a provider, but it will also involve greater out-of-pocket expenses for you, the patient. You also may be required to file your own claims.

Standard requires that you satisfy a yearly deductible before TRICARE cost sharing begins, and you will be required to pay co-payments or cost shares for outpatient care, medications and inpatient care.

TRICARE EXTRA

Extra can be used by any TRICARE-eligible beneficiary, who is not active duty, not otherwise enrolled in Prime, and not eligible for TRICARE for Life.

Extra goes into effect whenever a Standard beneficiary chooses to make an appointment with a TRICARE network provider. Extra, like Standard, requires no enrollment and involves no enrollment fee.

- Extra is essentially an option for TRICARE Standard beneficiaries who want to save on out-of-pocket expenses by making an appointment with a TRICARE Prime network provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, lab, etc.).
- The appointment with the in-network provider will cost 5 percent less than it would with a doctor who is a TRICARE authorized or participating provider.
- Also, the Extra option-user can expect that the network provider will file all claims forms for him. (The Standard beneficiary might have claims filed for him, but the non-network provider can decide to file on his behalf or not, on a case-by- case basis.)
- When using the Extra option, the Standard beneficiary must meet the same requirement to satisfy a deductible and pay a cost share for treatment.
- Under TRICARE Extra, because there is no enrollment, there is no Extra identification card. Your valid uniformed services ID card serves as proof of your eligibility to receive health care coverage from any TRICARE Prime provider.
- Your uniformed services ID card is, in effect, your insurance card, and you should have it with you whenever you seek medical care. It is your proof of eligibility and it should always be kept current-that is, you should check the expiration date and have it renewed before it expires, and you should make sure that all your personal information is correct and up to date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

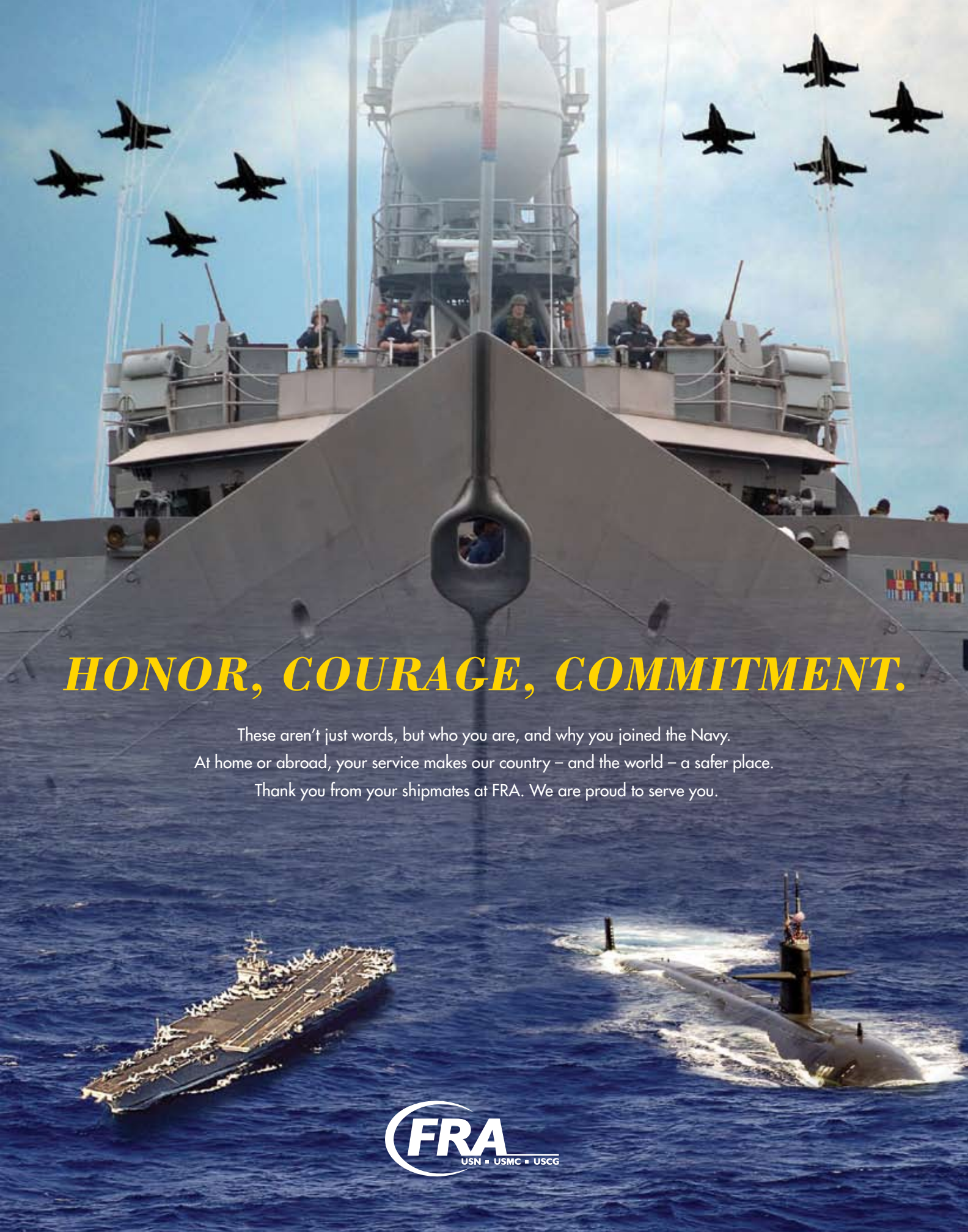
TRICARE PRIME REMOTE

TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) is specific to geographic location, and eligibility is based on residence and/or work address. The ZIP Code Search for Eligibility tool (below) helps determine TPR/TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Member (TPRADFM) eligibility. The residential address in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) must be the same for the Service member and his or her family members in order for the family to be eligible for TPRADFM.

TRICARE OVERSEAS

Active duty military families who live overseas can choose how to get their health care under TRICARE. They have four TRICARE Overseas options: TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Global Remote Overseas (available in designated "remote" locations), TRICARE Standard and TRICARE for Life Overseas. Military retirees and their families who live overseas cannot enroll in TRICARE Prime, but they can use TRICARE Standard.

Read our next issue of *OnWatch,* at www.fra.org/onwatch which focuses on health care. We'll provide comprehensive feedback on our survey results, inform you about FRA initiatives to maintain and enhance your health care benefits and also provide an expanded guide on the various TRICARE options and how they impact you.


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Leadership

BY EXAMPLE

When Command Master Chief (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa, Jr., became the 11th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), he shattered a few barriers. He's the first Hispanic-American to serve as the Navy's senior enlisted advisor, and he's also the first hospital corpsman to hold the post. Campa is one of the first three master chiefs to graduate from the Naval War College, earning a master's degree in national security and strategic studies, in addition to the Bachelor of Science degree he holds from Excelsior College. Quite an accomplishment for a high school dropout!

As he told Class 125 at the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy in July, "education and experience are a powerful combination." Campa brings plenty of both to his role as MCPON.

Shaped by experience

Campa joined the Navy in 1980, after working in a variety of odd jobs in the construction and restaurant fields. Following recruit training, he served as a deckplate Sailor before attending hospital corpsman "A" school. During his 26-year career, Campa has served with Marine units, at naval hospitals and a medical command, including three tours as a command master chief. Prior to his selection as MCPON, he was the senior enlisted advisor for the Joint Task Force in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Campa believes his military and medical experience have led him to where he is today. "I'm proud to come from Navy medicine," said Campa during an exclusive interview with FRA. "Being a corpsman helped prepare me for this job. I've been trained throughout my Navy career to take care of people, and I feel a strong sense of responsibility to help others."

Additionally, his tours with the Marine Corps and Army prepared him for his joint tour at Gitmo. "The Navy's role as part of the joint force is not going away, and it's important to educate the enlisted force about 'joint-ness.' The unity of effort being demonstrated at Gitmo is key to mission accomplishment. From my time in Cuba, it is obvious that we are facing a dangerous and determined enemy, which will require a dedicated effort on our part."



"I've been trained throughout my Navy career to take care of people,

SEIZING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Based on his experience, Campa also understands the importance of education. In addition to his academic degrees, he's completed the Army's Sergeants Major Academy and Command Sergeants Major course, and is a distinguished honor graduate of the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy.

The Navy's future requirement for Sailors to have an associate's degree in order to advance to Senior Chief (effective for 2011 selection boards) is just one example of the role education will play in the Navy's future. "I hope that Sailors will view this [new policy] as more than a promotion requirement," said Campa. "I hope they'll understand and embrace the myriad ways education can enhance their skills and performance as a chief. Continued education improves problem-solving skills and develops proficiency in writing and communication. More importantly, the requirement will create a culture of education that will help our Sailors perform in the more technical Navy of the future."

According to Campa, his stint at the Navy War College was "a great experience. It really helped me understand another side of the military system." In the classroom, he learned about the organizational structure and requirements of the officer corps. "I really got a glimpse at the big picture and learned how the organization works above me," said Campa.

But not all learning takes place in the classroom. "I also learned a lot about the importance of relationships. I learned there are some really good officers in our military who were genuinely interested in my success in the program. Their support at War College was just an extension of their overall support of enlisted personnel."

Campa felt an obligation to bring the enlisted perspective to the previously officers-only environment. "I believe the American and Allied officers who were there found value in my contributions," said Campa, who was justifiably proud when a foreign officer pointed to him and acknowledged that it's not what you wear (rank), but what's in your head that makes you a good leader.

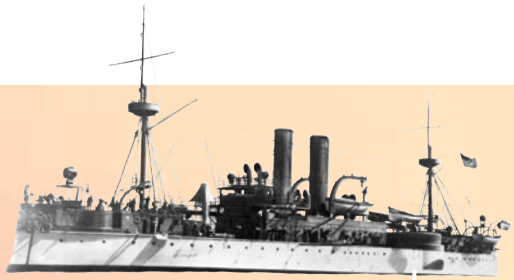
Obviously, Campa is anxious for other enlisted Sailors to attend the Navy's prestigious post-graduate program, and capitalize on their education and experience. "I feel I have a different perspective after completing War College, and am better able to complement the senior officers with whom I serve. As more Sailors experience these unique educational opportunities, we need to ensure that the Navy uses their skills and talents appropriately, and that both the Navy and the Sailor get the maximum value from those opportunities."

A PARTNER WITH FRA

During his brief tenure as MCPON, Campa has already learned the value of FRA's efforts. "The Navy's Sailor of the Year (SOY) program culminated in July after I'd been in office for only two weeks," said Campa. "FRA's been involved with the SOY program since its inception. FRA's recognition honors not only the four Sailors of the Year, but shows appreciation for what all our Sailors do. I was really impressed with FRA's participation at the national level and was amazed at the level of local support the FRA provides as these Sailors earn their way through the SOY process." According to Campa,

Navy Historical Timeline

The U.S. Navy celebrates its 231st birthday this month. Here are some of the key milestones:





1890: USS Maine, first American battleship, is launched. First Army-Navy football game (Navy won 24-0)

1862: Congress creates rank of Rear Admiral. David G. Farragut is named the first RADM.

1871: Naval Medical Corps established.

1797: Naval Regulations passed by Congress.

1776: Adoption of first uniforms for Navy officers.

1799: Establishment of Washington Navy Yard.

1841: First iron ship, the USS Michigan, authorized by Congress.

1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890

1775: The Continental Congress establishes Continental Navy.

1811: Congress authorizes first naval hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

1885: First classes at U.S. Naval War College begin.

1798: Congress establishes Department of Navy.

1845: Naval School, later the Naval Academy, opens in Annapolis, Maryland with 50 Midshipmen and seven faculties.

1866: The rank of admiral created. David G. Farragut is appointed first admiral in the U.S. Navy.







and I feel a strong sense of responsibility to help others." — Command Master Chief (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa, Jr.

FRA's participation in the SOY program is a win-win proposition. "The SOY program is obviously a high-visibility program that's built on credibility, just like the FRA. It's great for me to know that FRA's priorities are in line with the needs of our people."

Specifically, Campa spoke about his concern regarding the practices of predatory lenders who offer high-interest, short-term loans to military personnel and their families. "My predecessor, MCPON [Terry] Scott, raised awareness of this issue after hearing master chiefs in the field express concern about the impact on Sailors in their units. We appreciate FRA's legislative efforts to curtail these lending practices, and we're also working to educate Sailors and their spouses about the negative consequences of these loans. Our goal is to eliminate predatory lenders' client base."

In addition to FRA's legislative advocacy, Campa hopes that shipmates and ladies can be resources for family members who might be staying with parents or in-laws during their Sailor's deployment. "Scheduled deployments are becoming a thing of the past. World events are unpredictable and Sailors and their families must be ready for short-fuse deployments," said Campa. "Often times, individual augmentees' family members will go home to their extended family if their service member is going to be deployed for a lengthy period. It's difficult for the Navy to connect with these families and we need to do a better job to ensure their needs are met. FRA could really help these families, by providing a support network and connection to the Navy community."

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

When asked to describe his mission as MCPON, Campa smiled and expressed his goal to improve the way the Navy makes leaders. "I want to work with the Chief's Mess to reach all Sailors and strengthen how we train our people. I'm doing a lot of listening right now and examining ways that we can unlock the potential of our enlisted force."

"I'm committed to doing what's right for Sailors and the Navy," said Campa. "The Navy values each and every Sailor and the unique skills they bring to our service. Navy leadership and I understand that military service is a family endeavor and, whether a Sailor is married or single, I hope to strengthen the sense of the Navy as a family. Whether a Sailor stays for four years or 20, my hope is that he or she is a better individual for their naval service. I believe the values they embrace in the Navy, the sense of service, will carry them in good stead when they return to the civilian community, and will strengthen our country as a whole."

Lauren Armstrong now serves as the Contributing Editor for *Naval Affairs* after seven years as Editor.



1911: Navy orders its first airplane, Curtiss A-1.

1915: Office of Chief of Naval Operations established.

1942: Name "Seabees" and insignia officially authorized.

1893: The Grade of Chief Petty Officer was established.

1944: Congress appoints first three of four Fleet Admirals.

1946: Office of Naval Research established.

1950: Mary T. Sproul commissioned as first female doctor in the Navy.



1961: Commissioning of USS Enterprise (CVA (N)-65), the first nuclear-powered carrier, at Newport News, Va.

1970: Carl Maxie Brashear becomes the first African American Master Chief deep sea diver (see page 21).



1980: First women graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy.

1990: Commander Rosemary B. Mariner becomes first woman to command an operational aviation squadron (VAQ-34).

2006: Joe R. Campa assumes role of MCPON, replacing Terry D. Scott (10 July 2006).

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

(Source: Department of the Navy — Naval Historical Center, Dates in American Naval History, www.history.navy.mil.)





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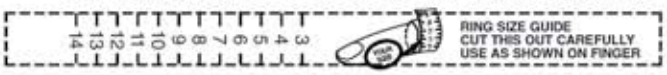
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A TRIBUTE TO A MAN OF HONOR



CARL MAXIE BRASHEAR, 75, the U.S. Navy's first African American master deep-sea diver, died on 25 July 2006 at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. He was an active FRA Branch 040 member since 1996.

Brashear, who was portrayed by Cuba Gooding, Jr. in the 2000 film *Men of Honor,* was a living example of how one can defy all odds to pursue and fulfill one's dreams.

He grew up on a farm in Sonora, Kentucky and left school after the seventh grade to work in his family's tobacco, corn and wheat fields and later at a gas station. Months before a presidential order desegregated the armed forces, Brashear tried to enlist in the Army, but was turned down. However, the Navy accepted him, only to be relegated to the officer's mess. Brashear's persistence paid off and he was accepted into diving school in Bayonne, N.J. in 1954. Despite the lack of an extensive formal education and the constant harassment of fellow officers, he graduated in 1964.

When two U.S. Air Force planes collided off the coast of Spain in 1966, resulting in a nuclear weapon falling into the sea, Brashear was assigned to the salvage ship *Hoist* to help retrieve the weapon. During the recovery, a cable ruptured causing a steel pipe to hit his leg with devastating impact. Due to the severity of his injuries, Brashear's leg was amputated at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth. He underwent intensive and painful physical therapy, determined to resume his career. While many servicemen would have been content to retire after such an ordeal, Brashear persuaded officials at the Navy's Bureau of Medicine to clear him for diving duty and went on to fulfill a life-long ambition to qualify as a master diver in 1970.

> He (Brashear) is a symbol of inspiration… a true example of greatness."

Following his retirement from active duty, Brashear spent several years involved with classified work for the U.S. Department of the Navy. The release of *Men of Honor* thrust him into the national spotlight and he received thousands of letters from amputees. He answered every letter and gave many inspirational speeches.

Gooding said, "He (Brashear) is a symbol of inspiration…a true example of greatness." (*Los Angeles Times*, 27 July 2006)

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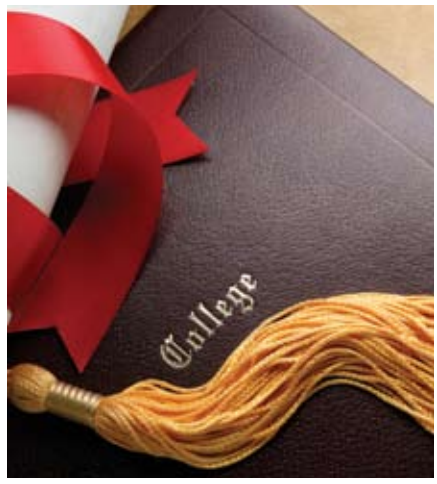
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FRA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Investing in the Future



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION (FRA) has awarded $98,200 in scholarships to 24 students from across the United States through its annual scholarship program.

"FRA is proud to support America's future leaders," said FRA National Executive Secretary Joseph L. Barnes. "We received more that 400 scholarship applications of a very high caliber this year and competition was very stiff."

"The Association is also pleased to have launched the Colonel Hazel Elizabeth Benn U.S.M.C. Scholarship this year. This scholarship provides $2,000 for unmarried dependent children of members who have served or are now serving in the United States Navy as enlisted medical personnel assigned to and serving with the United States Marine Corps."

"Since the FRA scholarship program began in 1962, we have assisted many exceptional candidates in achieving their career goals. These young men and women will be the leaders of tomorrow."

FRA scholarships are awarded to FRA members, their spouses, children and grandchildren. The 24 recipients — selected on the basis of financial need, academic standing, character and leadership qualities – are:

GLENN F. GLEZEN SCHOLARSHIP ($5,000)



Awarded: Henry Krigbaum
(Tucson, Ariz.)
School: Harvard Medical School
Member-at-Large

ROBERT W. NOLAN SCHOLARSHIP ($5,000)



Awarded: Laura K. Shapro
(Seattle, Wash.)
School: Seattle University School of Law
Daughter of Stephen R. Shapro
Member-at-Large

JOSEPH R. BARANSKI SCHOLARSHIP ($5,000)



Awarded: Robert Joseph Vollono
(Newport, R.I.)
School: Georgetown University (Public Policy Institute)
Branch 024

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION AWARD ($5,000 each)



Awarded: Marissa A. Abernathy
(Norfolk, Neb.)
School: Wisconsin Lutheran College
Daughter of Kent S. Abernathy
Member-at-Large



Awarded: Jonathan M. Benson
(Sisseton, S.D.)
School: South Dakota State University
Grandson of Chester L. Witherspoon
Branch 181`



Awarded: Elizabeth A. Coppage
(Hampton, Conn.)
School: Christopher Newport University
Daughter of Lori Ann Coppage
Member-at-Large



Awarded: Nicholas W. Dukellis
(Bakersfield, Calif.)
School: University of California, Davis
Grandson of Nicholas E. Dukellis
Branch 026



Awarded: Jillian E. Foley
(Arnold, Md.)
School: Northwestern University
Daughter of Mary B. Foley
Branch 024



Awarded: Kyle J. Martin
(Pineville, N.C.)
School: North Carolina State University
Grandson of Belvie D. Martin
Branch 091



Awarded: Juliet (Fawn) A. Guest
(Salem, Ore.)
School: Oregon State University
Granddaughter of Philip E. Maley
Branch 008

ROBERT M. TREADWELL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP ($5,000)



Awarded: Patrick N. Healy
(Jacksonville, N.C.)
School: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Son of Gerard D. Healy
Branch 208

LILLIAN A. MOON SCHOLARSHIP ($5,000)



Awarded: Ellie M. Jaqueth
(Forest, Ohio)
School: Xavier University.
Daughter of Dennis Jaqueth
Member-at-Large

STANLEY A. DORAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ($5,000)



Awarded: Edward C. Gonzales
(Oxnard, Calif.)
School: University of Southern California
Son of Edgardo A. Gonzales
Member-at-Large

THE DONALD BRUCE PRINGLE FAMILY ($5,000) SCHOLARSHIP



Awarded: Katelyn A. Matthew
(Boyertown, Pa.)
School: Moravian College
Granddaughter of Randolph E. Matthew
Member-at-Large

TURNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND ($5,000)



Awarded: Stacey E. Smitley
(Imperial Beach, Calif.)
School: San Diego State University
Daughter of Edward L. Smitley
Branch 289

MCPO KEN E. BLAIR SCHOLARSHIP ($3,000)



Awarded: Diana B. Silveira
(Columbus, Ohio)
School: Ohio State University
Daughter of Robert L. Silveira
Branch 046

TRI-WEST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ($1,500)



(In Memory of Charles Washington)
Awarded: Taylor J. Bradbury
(San Pablo, Calif.)
School: University of California, Berkeley
Grandson of James R. Walter
Member-At-Large

MARSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ($1,000)



(In Memory of Mac McKinney)
Awarded: Thomas R. Swisher
(Eureka, Calif.)
School: Humboldt State University
Grandson of Phillip A. Payne
Branch 101

FRA BRANCH #199 SCHOLARSHIP ($1,700)



Awarded: Cady L. Reed
(Calvert City, Ky.)
School: West Kentucky Community & Technical College
Daughter of Christopher Reed
Member–At-Large

FRA BRANCH #10 SCHOLARSHIP ($1,000)



Awarded: Ainsley Smith
(Silver Spring, Md.)
School: University of Maryland
Daughter of Sidney A. Everhart
Branch 024

COLONEL HAZEL BENN SCHOLARSHIP ($2,000)



Awarded: Beverly N. Anthony
(Jackson, N.J.)
School: Georgian Court University
Daughter of William R. Anthony
Branch 124

GEICO SCHOLARSHIP



Awarded: Ashley M. Figueroa
(Mt. Washington, Ky.) ($3,000)
School: Bellamarine University
Granddaughter of Stewart A. Owen
Branch 177



Awarded: Samuel J. McClain
(W. Mifflin, Pa.) ($5,000)
School: Duquesne University
Grandson of Richard McClain
Member-at-Large



Awarded: Jillian M. Thieme
(Green Bay, Wis.) ($5,000)
School: University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
Granddaughter of Robert W. King Jr.
Branch 180

FRA scholarship applications are available for download from September 2006 to 15 April 2007. For more information see www.fra.org. Also check with your local FRA branch or LA FRA unit to see if they sponsor a local scholarship program.

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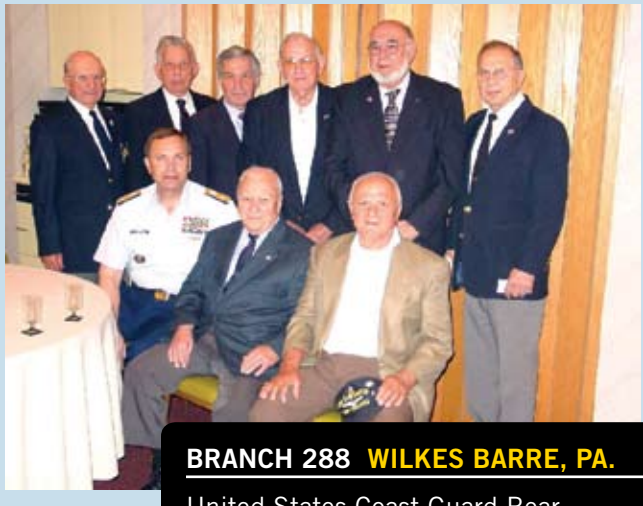
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BRANCH 175 ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF.

Shipmate Ken Miller receives a 30-year Continuous Membership pin from Branch President "Ole" Olsen.

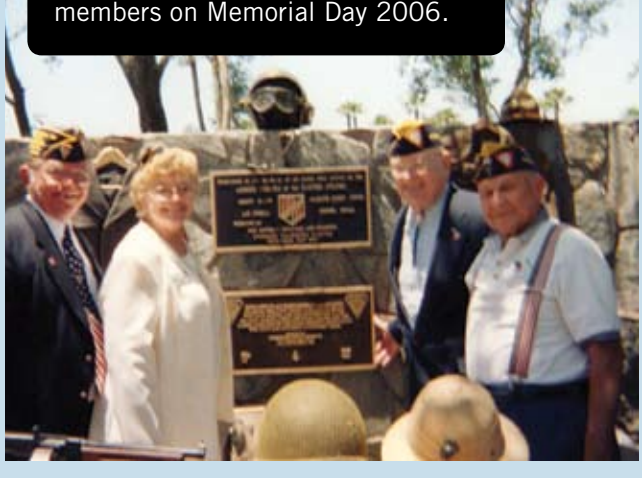


BRANCH 288 WILKES BARRE, PA.

United States Coast Guard Rear Admiral Gary Blore invited Scranton Branch 288 shipmates to a special luncheon to celebrate Armed Forces Week. (Front row, left to right) Admiral Gary Blore, Secretary Joseph Tully and John Brashinski. (Standing) Shipmates Robert R. Baum, James Fawcett; Treasurer Daniel Nicholais, Joseph Shifton, Robert Hackman, President Francis Tyson and MGySgt Robert R. Baum USMC (Ret.)

BRANCH 108 RIVERSIDE, CALIF.

RPSW Gus Hermes, RPSWLAFRA Gigi Hermes, Shipmate Francis Ruml and Branch President James R. Valdez, Jr. dedicate a FRA/LA FRA memorial plaque at the Riverside National Cemetery to their members on Memorial Day 2006.





BRANCH 250
SARASOTA, FLA.

Shipmate Dick Baker (third from left) proudly accepts his 50-year pin and certificate from Secretary/Treasurer Jim Smith, with Shipmates Robert F. Marble (left) and Mario M. Mazzarella looking on.



BRANCH 37 PORTSMOUTH, VA.

Shipmate Lester Kennedy (second from left) displays his 50-year Continuous Membership certificate with Branch President William Hansen (left) and Shipmates Joseph Cobb, Edward Kracker, John Parks, Robert Harand and Clyde Toler showing their support.



BRANCH 171
LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES

As part of the branch's youth activities program, Shipmate Apolinario V. Martinez (right) conducts young musicians who have memorized the "Navy Hymn" and "Anchors Away."

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There isn't a family we know that hasn't had a conflict over the volume of their TV. Too loud for mom, not loud enough for grandpa, never loud enough for the kids. Now you can listen to TV at your ideal personal volume with the help of the Bell+Howell® TV Headset, utilizing innovative sound enhancement.

Clears up sound, sweeps away noise

The Bell+Howell® is no ordinary headset. It amplifies volume, but more importantly, it helps those with hearing loss by transferring hard to distinguish sounds and voices clearly. Other cheap amplifiers amplify ALL the sounds so you can't hear the words clearly against all the background noise. The Bell+Howell® TV Headset keeps the background noise in the back where it belongs. In addition, sound is adjustable for each ear separately through volume balance control, so you can customize to your listening needs.

Light as a feather comfort

Remember those old fashioned wireless earphones? So bulky and heavy we all looked like helicopter pilots? Replace them with the TV Headset, which weighs a mere 2 ounces. It fits under the chin for the ultimate in comfort- it won't even mess up your hair. The TV Headset is so lightweight you'll barely notice they're on.

Everyone loves this headset

"My wife doesn't complain the TV is too loud anymore"
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"It's like having a set of new ears!"
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USS Benjamin Stoddert (DDG-22)
4-8 October 2006, King Of Prussia, PA. Contact Herm Chambers, 220 Meister Way, Sacramento, CA 95819, (916) 736-3140 or ddg22etcm@hotmail.com.

USS Rolette (AKA-99)
11-15 October 2006, Charleston, SC. Contact Richard Jones, 2915 Foxhall Road, Charleston, SC 29414 or (843) 763-3807.

USS Greenwich Bay (AVP-41)
23-25 October 2006, Nashville, TN. Contact Neal and Ilowa Bancroft, 308 Warren St., Greenville, OH 45331 or (513) 548-1702.

RVAH-12
8-10 June 2007, Key West, FL. Contact Matthew Noblick, 641 Aguila Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23322, (757) 410-0142 or mnoblick@yahoo.com.

USS Henley (DD-762 & 391)
17-19 August 2007, Covington, KY. Contact Richard L. Le Blanc, 56927 Antelope Trail Yucca Valley, CA 92284, (760) 369-0453, jadikjt@webtv.net.

USS Ruchamkin (APD89)
15-18 April 2007, Virginia Beach VA. Contact Bob Russell, 40788 Executive Dr., Sterling Heights MI 48313, (586) 247-7082 or ar89@sbcglobal.net.

Submarine Veterans 2007 — Convention/Boat Reunion
15-22 September 2007, Seattle, WA. Contact Bud Berg, 721 Saturn Lane, Bremerton, WA 98311-7951 or crberg@comcast.net.

Tradevman Association (TD)
11-13 February 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Contact Frank Watts, (662) 449-3392 or wattsfd174@aol.com.

USS General H. W. Butner (AP-113)
26-30 April 2007, Philadelphia, PA. Contact J. Gordon Fowlie, 298 Privateer Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050-1758, (609) 698-3883 or Jgfowlie@aol.com.

USS Gridley (DLG/CG-21 or DD-380)
1 February 2007, Miami, FL. Contact Bob Hallead or gridleyreunion@sbcglobal.net.

USS Gunston Hall (LSD-5)
29-1 May 2007, San Diego, CA. Contact Ron Kennedy, 11832 W. Virginia, Avondale, AZ 85323, (623) 907-3688 or ussgunstonhalllsd5@yahoo.com.

USS Jason (ARH-1/AR-8)
11-15 June 2007, Branson, MO. Contact Bill and Ev Stansberry, 8435 County Rd. 290, Carl Junction, MO 64834, (417) 649-6140 or sssl@joplin.com.



USS Nelson (DD-623)
19-21 April 2007, San Antonio, TX. Contact George Treibel, 4430 Morris Drive, Pearland, TX 77854-4924, (281) 485-3538 or ltreibel@gt. rr.com.

USS Richard E. Byrd (DDG-23)
11-14 October 2007, Charleston, SC. Contact David L. Cunningham, 916 Timberlake Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464-3232, (757) 467-6682 or dcunnin884@aol.com.

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

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LOOKING FOR...

Gerald Mickel, DTC USN
Served together on the USS Bryce Canyon (AD-36), Long Beach, Calif.(1958). Contact Charles B. Hanlon, HMCS USN (Ret.), 7797 Teakwood Dr., Jenison, MI 49428-7716, 616- 457-2901 or cjlon@comcast.net.

EN2 Arthur Arledge, BT 2 Manuel Charles Ortiz, DC3 John Purdom
Last known address was USS Neptune ARC 2 (early 1960s). Contact Ron Adams at 901-872-7207.

G.G. Amburn SH1
Last known assignment was aboard A.D. 15. Contact Jack R. Turk, 701 Glazier Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805 or 260-4830126.

F.H. House SH1
Last known assignment was N.A.S. Pax River, Md. Contact Jack R. Turk, 701 Glazier Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805 or 260-483-0126.

Richard George Meyer
Last known assignment was Farragut Naval Training Station, Idaho. Boot Camp 1943 – 1944. Please contact Don Meyer at cadon05@cox.net.

Shipmates from Great Lakes Recruit Company 99
Please contact D.E. Chambers, USN (Ret.) at rollinshrs@aol.com.

USS Cleveland LPD-7
Chief Petty Officers who served on board from 1966-70. Please contact Vic Griguoli, UDD Cleveland LPD-7, Reunion Association, Secretary, vicgig@optonline.net.

Charles Griffith AQ2
Last known assignment was in VQ2, Rota, Spain (1962-1965). Please contact C.A. Kennedy, AQC (Ret.), PSC-45, Box 126, APO AE 09468.

Phil Judson, Bruce Florko, Ron Clymer and others.
Last known assignment was the Naval Security Group, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska in the early '70s. Please contact Terry Smith at 303-979-3055 or Charlie Holland at 703-578-0081.

Donald H. Elliot (wife, Judy)
Last known assignment at NATTC, Memphis, AE School. Please contact Cal Jones, AVCM (Ret.) at jncjones77@wmconnect.com.

RMC/RMCS Clifford Moore
Last known duty stations Guam, MI, Diego Garcia and San Diego. Contact Alfred J. Wood RMCM USN (Ret.), 570-673-8969 or popatop1@frontiernet.net.

Shipmates of Company 973
Last known assignment was RTC San Diego, December 1952 – March 1953. Please contact Owen O. Turner, 51 Miriam Road, Waltham, MA 02451, 781-891-3043 or USSLAWE@aol.com.

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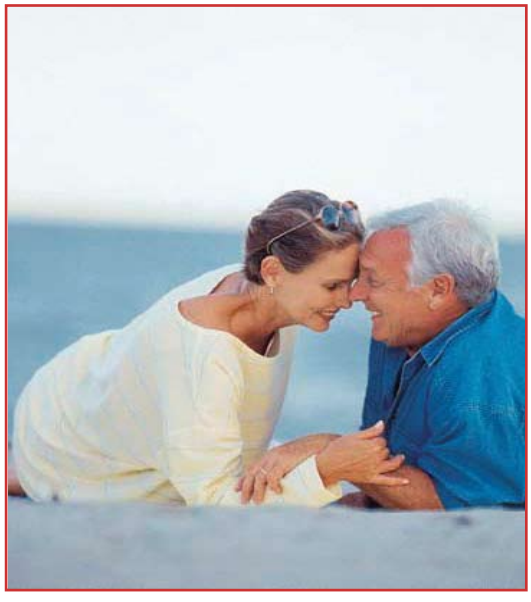
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I just had to tell your readers about a recent experience I had with my husband.

First, let me just say he is a wonderful man. But, after being married for over 20 years, it seemed he was having confidence issues in AND out of bed. It was having a real negative effect on his sexual prowess and let's face it, It's not like we're newlyweds anymore.



Thankfully, everything changed a few days ago. I came home from work and he started kissing me before I even made it through the door. Confident and aggressive, he made all the right moves. I definitely felt sensations I'd never felt before…in places I forgot existed. We made love for what seemed like an eternity. I never knew what some of my friends meant when they said the earth moved from making love– I do now. "I can honestly say it was the most incredible experience I've ever had in my entire life!"

When I asked him what was going on – what brought about the change – he wouldn't answer me. So I did what any red-blooded American woman would do, I started snooping. It didn't take me long to figure out his secret. In his underwear drawer under the "men's magazines", was a tube of **MAXODERM Connection**. After reading the fine print and finding the website, I went online to **www.maxodermct.com** to discover more about this magic in a tube.

MAXODERM Connection (of which I'm having my husband buy a lifetime supply) is a lotion that is applied topically to "intimate areas". An all natural mix of herbs and who knows what, it helps improve stimulation directly at the source – that's when amazing things start to happen. Now he's more confident in the bedroom and I experience a whole new level of ecstacy! We aren't into taking pills of any kind – not even aspirin – so I was relieved to find he was using something topical without any systemic side effects. Unless you want to think of great sex as a side effect, because that's definitely what's going on at our place – ALL the time!

So … please print this letter. Anyone who wants to experience mind-blowing intimacy has to try **MAXODERM Connection**. They need to tell their boyfriends, husbands or partners about this product. Or just "accidentally" leave a tube lying around forthem to "accidentally" find. I really want to thank the woman who developed **MAXODERM Connection** – only a woman could design something that feels this good.

T.J.
Phoenix, AZ

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Arnold, Peter Vaughn, VET	130
Baldick, Stuart W., BMC	117
Bereznik, William X., BM1	MAL
Berry, Kenneth L., BMC	MAL
Blanchette, Albert, CM1	MAL
Brashear, Carl M., BMCM	040
Bustamante, Daniel M., SH2	MAL
Butler, Leonard M., AD	MAL
Callan, George M., ADJ1	MAL
Cantwell, Burnham, MMCS	MAL
Carey, Junior L., EM1	008
Carey, William E., UTC	MAL
Chowning, Edwin E., MMC(SS)	MAL
Christine, Victor, PO1 USN	022
Coker, Harvey N., HMC	091
Cole, Charles E., AE1	159
Coleman, Jerry W., POCM	MAL
Coleman, John, YNC	060
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Curry, Darrell E., MSGT	234
Diehl, Charles W., HTCM	006
Dodson, Marvin E., HMC	MAL
Dunn, David, M., HMC	MAL
Early, Milton C., CSC	097
Emery, William, CDR USN	024
Friend, Ronald, SM1	MAL
Gallagher, John F., Jr., MGYSGT	208
Garrett, Charles R., BMC	MAL
Garten, Robert, CPO	038
Garty, Stanley G., CPO USN	006
Gentry, Glenn H., DM2	126
Gentry, Robert E., MMC(SS)	365
Gibson, Robert D., ATC	MAL
Gingerich, Clayton P., ENC	061
Gledich, Nicholas, SGTMAJ	147
Gonzales, Ralph A., YNC	029
Gorski, Clarence, PO1 USN	027
Gradick, Edwin C., BMCM	192
Graves, Forrest, AMSC	124
Gregus, Anthony J., ADJC	256
Griffin, Robert J., MTC	126
Grist, Walter C., MSGT	MAL
Gutsmiedel, Lloyd F., BM2	376
Hagen, Kenneth G., SCDC	180
Hammock, James C., CWO4 USN	290
Harshbarger, John H., PNC	009
Hartman, Cloyd J., BMC	053
Hatfield, Joseph A., ENCS	161
Haynes, Forrest M., CSC	009
Hill, Harry R., Jr., SGT	041
Homan, William, GYSGT	057
Hough, Clayton K., Jr., RET USMC	246
Huff, Richard J., YNC	MAL
Hughson, Howard H., CAPT USN	MAL
Hutson, Randy L., BMC	229
Jacobsen, Lawrence E., HON MEM	137
Jeffcoat, Elbert J., BMC	269
Johnson, Eugene, SMC	052
Johnson, Victor, TMC	MAL
Jones, Jerry C., RM1	268
Jones, Raymond F., EMC	140
Jones, William, CDR USN	MAL
Jorgensen, Gerald F., FTGC	099
Justice, John W., MCPO USN	060
Kenning, Lloyd R., ETCM	MAL
Kolesar, Nicholas T., SH1	269
LaBanca, James, DTCS	MAL
Lalande, Emile P., Jr., MMC	290
Langley, Maurice E., ABCS	*060*
Lansing, Roger L., YN1	053
Leach, Frank R., Jr., SMC	MAL
Leach, Garry M., TDC	MAL
Leavy, Louis F., TSGT	MAL
Leonard, John E., CTO1	103
Lewis, William P., Jr., YNC	060
Looper, Bobby J., YN1	284
Lovorn, Johnny, AME1	MAL
Lowe, Raymond, Jr., AZC	096
Lucas, Murl J., QMC	126
Malone, Lawrence P., LCDR USN	093
Mariott, Dewey R., MMCM	166
Markley, Harvey E., CMM	018
Martin, J. W., MGYSGT	375
Martin, Murray J., Jr., SW1	106
McCulloch, Richard D., RMC	MAL
McElroy, Robert F., LCDR USN	MAL
McGraw, Wendell H., CSC	346
Mellor, John W., BMC	MAL
Milani, Arthur J., MMC	MAL
Miller, Harold M., EMC	029
Miller, Melvin, MM1	060
Miller, Richard D., SKC(SS)	MAL
Mitchell, James W., PO2 USN	022
Moreland, David R., CWO4 USN	103
Nelson, Helen M., YNC	MAL
Nossokoff, Alfred N., MSGT	175
Olsen, Oscar W., TMC	*009*
Outten, George E., ENCS	040
Owen, Murrel S., CPO USN	176
Palm, Noel A., MTC(SS)	MAL
Pangan, Teodulo T., MS2	126
Paris, William E., SGT	313
Paskiewicz, Thadeus A., POC	MAL
Patrolia, Ernest G., ADRC	264
Peden, William, CDR USN	043
Peterson, Richard N., CDR USN	106
Petty, Francis M., HMCM	163
Piechota, Bryan W., SKC	120
Pierce, Kenneth W., FTC	008
Pike, John C., MMC	050
Prickett, Charles B., Jr., QMCS	216
Proffitt, Stuart H., BTC	043
Pruitt, Jack H., RMCS	MAL
Rabanus, Raymond D., AVCM	MAL
Randisi, Martin A., CAPT USN	MAL
Reams, Rufus, Jr., ADC	366
Redman, Oscar, POC	MAL
Reeve, Richard V., HMC	117
Regiani, Ray, SKC	043
Richter, Christopher J., ATC	091
Rivers, Viva J., ABEC	MAL
Roberts, Edward J., GYSGT	MAL
Roper, Bobby N., HMCS	019
Roxas, Rodrigo T., PO1 USN	MAL
Ruel, Richard, BTCS	MAL
Runcie, John W., POC	140
Saburn, Richard R., ADRC	005
Sanderlin, Daniel, AOC	040
Sawyer, Coston L., AMSC	293
Severino, Eugene, Jr., ADJC	*312*
Shimkovitz, Alton C., BMC	029
Siler, Rufus L., GMM1	MAL
Sloan, Glen, ICCS	MAL
Smay, Reginald E., TMC	*061*
Smith, Viencel J., ADR1	MAL
Snowden, Lawrence K., HMC	MAL
Stark, Donald L., AVCM	156
Stout, Marie M., YNC	MAL
Taylor, John G., SKC	MAL
Thornton, Ronald K., RMC	MAL
Trotter, Erskine B., AFCM	047
Tudone, Herman C., BM3	042
Vansickle, Raleigh, YNCS(SW)	MAL
Vickers, William F., ADJC	263
Vickrey, Claud G., Jr., ADRC	293
Wagner, Clarence, TD1	MAL
Waldow, Albert, AE1	MAL
Walker, Billy P., BTC	275
Wallace, Raymond L., AMHC	MAL
Wass, Merle S., CWO2 USN	207
Westberry, Willie, LCDR USN	MAL
White, Robert E., ENCS	117
Whitten, Harlan L., ADR1	MAL
Wilbiekaitis, John C., UTC	057
Williams, James H., PO1 USN	MAL
Williams, John L., AECS	096
Wishart, Roy V., YNC	085
Witherspoon, Chester L., SKCS	181
Wright, Jimmy Don, PO1 USN	091
Zoske, Anthony W., EM1	MAL

Names in blue italics indicate 50 year continuous members.

Childhood Dream Brings a Fortune in Gold & Silver Lost in a Hurricane 140 Years Ago



Odyssey Marine Exploration co-founder Greg Stemm in front of the Odyssey Explorer*, the company's 251 foot deep-ocean archaeological platform.*

By David Welch

Greg Stemm has adventure in his blood. His childhood fantasies were born as he sat in his piano teacher's waiting room every week poring over tattered copies of *National Geographic* magazine. "As a land-locked Michigan kid with dreams of the ocean, I was always drawn to the articles about underwater exploration, especially shipwreck archeology," Greg recalls.

Today Greg's dreams have come true. As co-founder of Odyssey Marine Exploration, he leads a team of experts who explore thousands of miles of ocean in search of shipwrecks. They've found everything from Spanish galleons to an F-16 jet fighter. Odyssey has found a fantastic piece of America's history – and now they're going to share it.

A Fortune in Silver & Gold. After years of searching, Greg and the Odyssey Marine Exploration team located the SS *Republic*, a Civil War-era paddlewheel steamship. A violent hurricane took her to the bottom of the Atlantic off the Georgia coast in October, 1865. The SS *Republic* carried with it a king's ransom in gold & silver U.S. coins bound to rebuild New Orleans after the Civil War. The recovery of the SS *Republic* treasure has garnered front-page headlines worldwide and is the subject of a *National Geographic* TV special.

The Mysterious "O" The shipwreck site was carefully mapped and photographed by Odyssey's archeologists. Each coin was delicately recovered one at a time by *ZEUS*, Odyssey's Remotely Operated Vehicle. As the coins came up from 1,700 feet beneath the Atlantic, Greg was stunned to see magnificent U.S. silver "Seated Liberty" half dollars dated from before the outbreak of the Civil War. But the biggest surprise was yet to come. Upon examining the half dollars, coin experts discovered that many of them bore an "O" mintmark – from the long-closed New Orleans Mint!



The detail of each 1860-O Half Dollar excavated from the SS Republic *shipwreck is amazing.*

Shown larger than actual size of 30.6 mm

The New Orleans Mint "O" mintmark

Of all the SS *Republic* coins recovered, among the most important are those with the "O" mintmark. The Confederacy took over the New Orleans Mint in 1861, and made its own half dollars until they ran out of silver. To this day no one knows how these coins made their way from New Orleans to New York during the Civil War and then into the hold of the SS *Republic* for her final, fateful voyage in 1865. These hefty silver coins are filled with history: Made of silver from the famous Comstock Lode; minted at the old New Orleans Mint just as Lincoln became President; carried aboard a ship bound to rebuild a war-ravaged South; then lost for 140 years, 1,700 feet beneath the Atlantic, until Odyssey's crew carefully recovered them from the sea! Public demand for coins from the SS *Republic* has been frenzied. Individual coins have already sold at prices of $1,000 to more than $600,000 apiece.



Odyssey Marine Exploration's underwater robot, ZEUS, *is lowered into the ocean for another deep-sea exploration assignment.*



Each coin comes displayed in a deluxe presentation case and accompanied by a storybook that holds an exciting DVD that documents the discovery of the SS Republic.

A Special $249 Offer. Greg is extending a special invitation to our readers. "We've set aside a limited number of U.S. silver half dollars dated 1860 from the SS *Republic*. These are coins with the historic "O" mark of the New Orleans Mint, struck the very year Lincoln was elected. Look at the condition – Miss Liberty's face, the folds in her garment, the individual feathers on the eagle – the detail is amazing! This is a lifelong dream come true. Most people will never have the chance to go on a quest like this. But, they can share in the treasure. While they last, we're releasing authentic, 1860 "O" Mint silver half dollars from the SS *Republic* at the lowest price we have ever offered – just $996. And to make it affordable for most anyone, we will deliver it after the first of four monthly installments of just $249."

Each SS *Republic* 1860-O Silver Half Dollar is independently certified & encapsulated by the Numismatic Guaranty Corp. (NGC) and displayed in a magnificent presentation case along with a Certificate of Authenticity, an illustrated history of the SS *Republic*, and a *National Geographic* DVD. The quantity is restricted at this introductory price (plus S&H) so orders should be placed without delay to avoid disappointment (many varieties of SS *Republic* coins have already sold out). Satisfaction is assured with a full 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee (the coin and all included materials must be returned in their original condition to qualify). A 4-payment option is available for just $249 — call for details.

To reserve your **1860 New Orleans Mint silver Half Dollar** from the SS *Republic* treasure, or for information about other silver and gold coins recovered from the SS *Republic*, call Odyssey Marine Exploration toll free at **1-800-456-2466** and request Special Offer **SSD106-01** (Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.)

P.S. Greg will give away an autographed first edition of the book "Lost Gold of the Republic" *to the first 50 people to order.*



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A Message from Regional President North Central



Photo by: Vince Cuthie

DORIS C. FRI
Regional President North Central Region

I WOULD LIKE TO thank delegates of the North Central Region for their confidence in electing me to serve as their Regional President for the third time.

Traveling throughout the region, I have seen much evidence of how seriously Ladies of the North Central take the LA FRA Preamble. Many units spend several hours each month helping veterans in their communities.

I was honored to attend meetings in St. Joseph, Mo. (Unit 379) and Wichita, Kan. (Unit 241) when they presented awards to the National Essay Contest winners in their area. With the North Central Regional Convention now firmly behind us, members continue to work tirelessly to serve their communities, especially the veterans.

My own unit (Unit 161) buys and wraps presents Christmas gifts for several children's homes in the Kansas City area each year. We usually start shopping in early November when we receive a list of names. Our members get together in late November to wrap all the gifts, which are then delivered the children's homes for distribution. In addition to this, we hold Christmas parties at three of the homes in early December. The local business community has been very supportive by providing money to purchase the gifts.

The dedicated members of North Central never miss an opportunity to display their colors in parades, and are always eager to volunteer at the local VA Hospitals and adopt families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our region also provides assistance to Sea Cadets, undertakes regular visits to many nursing homes in the area to cheer up the elderly, volunteers for "Meals on Wheels" and "Foster Grandparents," as well as many other worthy causes.

It was indeed a privilege to represent these dedicated members over the past year.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the newly-elected officers of the North Central Region. I look forward to seeing all my fellow board members at the National Convention in Oconomowoc, WI in September.

I remain yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service.

Fran Hoadley is the editor of *LA FRA News* and the *Naval Affairs* Liaison.

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Dress watch. Black cowhide band. Silver outer ring/ polished gold bezel. Luminous hand.

Raider



A sporty looking watch for all occasions. Flexing rib band, water resistant, luminous hands, turning bezel





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A Trip to Australia Reveals the Wonder of Giant Golden Pearls

Just before 1900, in a small isolated town called Broome Australia, fishermen came across the rarest oyster-a giant named the Pinctada maxima. This world's largest oyster contained the voluptuous South Sea Pearl—the most sought after pearl in the world. After this discovery, Broome soon became the dominant pearl trading post in the world and literally 80% of all worldwide pearl trading passed through Broome.

A trip to Broome. We took the long trip to Australia to study the famous white lipped oysters that produced magnificent pearls that are often 11-14mm—about 8 times the size (and 8 times the price!) of a standard pearl. Not only did these oysters produce the rare South Sea pearl, but they also produced a tremendous amounts of mother of pearl or nacre. Nacre is the lustrous iridescent substance which is secreted by the oyster to form the shiny inside of their shells. When nacre secretions are deposited around the pearl seed they build up to form a full sized pearl. Our bio-scientists went to work to see if we could improve upon Mother Nature's process a little. By extracting the seed pearl from young oyster shells and speeding up the process in the lab, we coated these natural seed pearls with nacre from the inside of the giant shells, and were able to produce the breathtaking lab-coated Australian Pacific Pearl.

Golden beauties. These golden enhanced organic pearls are extremely large in size—12mm—but they are much more consistent in shape than ordinary pearls that have to be extracted from 4-5 year old oysters that are dead. They are also less porous so you don't have to worry about perfumes or cosmetics discoloring these pearls like you do with ordinary pearls. In a more ecologically friendly approach, the Australian Pacific pearl seed is extracted from fresh oyster shells and then organically micro-coated in the laboratory with the same nacre that coats naturally grown pearls. Giant 12mm golden South Sea pearls can cost up to $50,000 for an 18" strand. Why even think about that when you can now wear an 18" strand of 12mm lab coated enhanced Australian Pacific Pearls with a consistently round shape and a rare golden color for under $300.

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