

YOUR MISSION, YOUR VOICE

FRA *today*

The magazine of the Fleet Reserve Association

FEBRUARY 2021

FLEET AIR WING 7



INSIDE:

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- 35** New Life Members

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February 2021 Volume 100 Number 2



Cover: A consolidated PB4Y-1 bomber patrol flies over the English countryside bound for a patrol area over the Bay of Biscay, circa summer 1943. Photo in the collections of the National Archives. Above: A Consolidated PB4Y-1 that has been restored to represent B-24M Liberator 44-41916 at the Castle Air Museum, Atwater in California. Photo by Ingo Warnecke.

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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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The Marine Corps Women's Reserve Was Established Feb. 13, 1943

Although 305 women served in the Marine Corps during World War I, they were separated from service by June 30, 1919.

During World War II, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established on Feb. 13, 1943. By the end of the first month following the official announcement made by Marine Corps Gen. Thomas Holcomb calling for female Marines, 1,100 female Marines were serving.

Pvt. Lucille McClarren was the first woman to enlist in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and more than 20,000 women served as Marines in World War II. They filled 85% of the enlisted jobs in more than 225 different specialties at Marine Corps HQ. In 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act gave women permanent status in both the regular and reserve forces of the Marines.

The Reserve was mobilized in August 1950 for the Korean War with a strength of 2,787 active-duty female Marines. Most of them served as part of the clerical and administrative staff.

In 1967 during the Vietnam War Master Sgt. Barbara Dulinsky became the first female Marine to serve in a combat zone. During the conflict there were about 2,700 female Marines on active duty, both stateside and overseas.

By 1975, the Corps had approved the assignment of women to all occupational fields except infantry, artillery tank crew, piloting and aircrew. More than 1,000 female Marines were deployed in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991. During the recent Middle East conflicts, Capt. Elizabeth A. Okoreeh-Baah was the first female MV-22 Osprey pilot on the flight line in Al Asad, Iraq, after a combat operation on March 12, 2008.

Female Marines also served in the Iraq War from 2003 to 2011, and they currently serve in the Afghanistan War that began in 2001 and the American-led intervention in Iraq that began in 2014.

According to the Department of Defense's 2017 military demographic report, women make up 8.4% of the Marine Corps and are integrated into nearly all military occupational specialties, and are serving in 316 of 326 specialties. The FRA is proud to include within its membership female Marines who carry on the traditions of those first trailblazers and continue to open doors for future generations.

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

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Jackpot! Hoard of 1883-O Morgan Silver Dollars Found & Secured

Mintage accounts for only 1.33% of all Morgan Silver Dollars Struck!

The Morgan Silver Dollar is the most popular and iconic vintage U.S. coin. They were the Silver Dollars of the Wild West, going on countless untold adventures in dusty saddlebags across the nation. Finding a hoard of Morgans doesn't happen often—and when it does, it's a *big deal*. So when we came across a recent hoard of 710 Morgan Silver Dollars—all struck at the historic New Orleans Mint in 1883—it was like hitting the jackpot!

Morgans from the New Orleans Mint

In 1859, Nevada's Comstock Lode was discovered, and soon its rich silver ore made its way across the nation, including to the fabled New Orleans Mint, the only U.S. Mint branch to have served under the U.S. government, the State of Louisiana and the Confederacy. In 1883, some of that silver was struck into Morgan Silver Dollars, each featuring the mint's iconic "O" mint mark. Now you have the chance to add these historic, 90% pure U.S. silver coins to your collection!

Scarce 1883-O Date

The Morgan Silver Dollar was struck from 1878 to 1904, and again in 1921. In the 100 years since, most of these beautiful U.S. Silver Dollars have been worn out or melted down for their silver. It's estimated that as little as 15% of all Morgans struck exist today in any condition. Even fewer come from this particular mintage.

Here's the breakdown: in 1883, just 4.33% of the total Morgan series was struck. Less than a third of those coins came from New Orleans. In the end, the 1883-O Morgan Silver Dollar accounts for just 1.33% of the entire series—and that's *before* the mass meltings that have left so few coins for collectors to secure. And we can expect that even fewer of the survivors are of collector grade...

Certified Collector Quality

Coins are graded on a 70-point scale, with a 70 representing perfection. Through hard work and diligence, the collector who first assembled this hoard managed to find 1883-O Morgans graded as quality Mint State-63 (MS63) condition by the world's two leading third-party grading services, Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) or



Actual size is 38.1 mm

- ✓ Historic Morgan Silver Dollars
- ✓ Minted in New Orleans
- ✓ 1883 date
- ✓ 138 years old
- ✓ 26.73 grams of 90% fine silver
- ✓ Hefty 38.1 mm diameter
- ✓ Certified collector Mint State-63 (MS63) condition by NGC/PCGS
- ✓ Sealed in protective holder
- ✓ 1883-O accounts for just 1.33% of all Morgans Struck

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1.33% of the entire series

The 1883-O Morgan Silver Dollar accounts for just 1.33% of all Morgans

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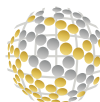
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We are One Association



Chris Slawinski
NED

There has been an ongoing discussion about two different types of members in the Fleet Reserve Association. It is not annual member versus life member or complimentary member. The question asked is, “Is a branch member more valuable than a Member-at-Large?” The correct answer is both are valuable to the survival of the FRA and its branches.

The Value of Membership

When you talk to prospective members, it is beneficial to discuss the value of membership. Typically, you should provide them with the benefits that an FRA membership offers.

Both branch members and MALs receive these benefits with their membership:

- Advocacy on Capitol Hill.
- An annual subscription to *FRAtoday*.
- Experts who assist with VA and DOD benefits.
- Recognition for continuous membership.
- Discounts from affinity partners.
- Comradery with enlisted sea service veterans.

On a local level, you should also provide the value of being affiliated with your branch.

So what does your branch do in its community? Some branches consider their value to be the local branch home, but what else do you provide?

- Are you working with other groups for charities?
- Are you involved with youth activities?
- Are you sponsoring patriotic events?
- Are you family-friendly?
- Are you engaged in other kinds of outreach?

Young veterans often look for organizations that are engaged and involved in their local community. Many say they are looking for a way to give back. How are you as a local branch stepping up to be this connection to those in your community?

Developing an Action Plan

Growing our membership is everyone’s responsibility. In order to make this possible, providing the tools and guidance necessary for success is needed at the local, regional and national levels.

National headquarters is developing a plan to grow the FRA. Discussions include developing a road map that will be actionable, measurable and used throughout the FRA. This plan is necessary not only to mark our 100th anniversary, but also to carry us into the next 100 years as an association.

As a local branch, you too should develop a plan for not only this year, but also the next three. Look at where your branch is now and determine where you want it to go. Utilize national and regional officers as consultants and be ready to offer recommendations that lead the branch toward success. The national headquarters and current leadership can help you develop a marketing message that is branded with the FRA mission and the values of our organization.

It Is About the Member

Being a member of the FRA is about all our members. A Shipmate’s choice not to affiliate with a local branch may be based on any number of things. Some of the feedback I have received throughout the years is that members choose to be at large because of the distance to the nearest branch or the inability to drive. These are just a few reasons, but we need to remember MALs are all Shipmates. The individual decision to be a Member-at-Large is based on several reasons, which may include personal preferences or circumstances. They are still a member, and still have a voice.

Each year, branches should reach out to local MALs and invite them to attend a branch meeting or to participate in one of the community events. The same effort should be put toward engaging potential members or those Shipmates who left the organization. Providing the value of your local branch will be the first step to helping us all grow.

The more we are able to show our value to current and future members at the national, regional and local levels, the more we can grow the association. **FRA**

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,

Chris Slawinski

Chris is the national executive director of the Fleet Reserve Association and may be reached at: NED@FRA.org.

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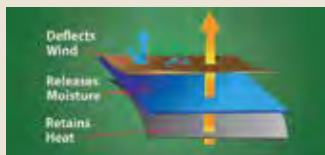


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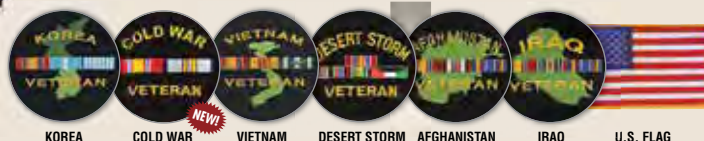
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The Battle of Midway

Dear editor Stevenson,

Thank you for your input on the Battle of Midway.

In my opinion, you should have some naval history every month to keep members informed how our Sea Services provided the forces to protect the freedom we have today.

Thank you again and keep up the good work.

ARDC Cecil Seim, USN (Ret.)

FRAtoday: *Thank you for your correspondence these past few months. The feedback from readers like you really does have an impact upon the editorial decisions and planning that go into the FRAtoday editorial lineup each year.*

Just to outline that process for those who might want to provide some ideas for future magazines, the magazine team gets together each September and plans out 24 topics to be in the upcoming year. The topics are influenced by the FRA board, members, staff and, of course, our readers. When topics are suggested, we place them into the process and then try to narrow them down to a nice variety for the upcoming year. Once those topics are decided, we post them in our media kit online. The information is at: www.fra.org/fra/Web/Content/FRA_Today_Ad/FRA_Today_Editorial_Cal.aspx. Bill Stevenson.

CPOs Do Not Get Commissioned

I read with great interest your opening note in the most recent *FRAtoday*, regarding retired Chief Petty

Officer Bill Monfort and was amazed that he was COMMISSIONED as a Chief Petty Officer!

Maybe they did things differently back in '43, but just as commissioned officers are never Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers are never commissioned, it would be considerably beneath their status in the United States Navy and would totally negate a career of sacrifice and growth in their chosen career field!

*Very Respectfully. SQUID
(Submarine Qualified Until I Die)*

FRAtoday: *Thank you for reading the magazine and taking the time to write a letter. So many of us email, it is*

nice to get actual mail, just like back in '43. As you have pointed out, that line in the December issue should have read, "He was aboard the USS CLAXTON (DD-571) when he was promoted to chief petty officer on Feb. 1, 1943, and spent the remaining days of his service on a destroyer." We appreciate your diligent readership, and hope you enjoy the submarine feature in this issue!

Failed to Get It Right

Shipmates, I just saw the December 2020 issue of the *FRAtoday* magazine. I am appalled, embarrassed, and ashamed for this organization. In listing the awards earned this year by our honored Shipmates, we failed to get it right.

The highly honored McPherson Award to James Murrell Gem State Branch 382 (West Coast Region). What happened to the Northwest Region? When was this branch moved to the West Coast Region? A very simple exercise in proofreading should have caught this gross error. We should be able to do better for our Shipmates and our organization. Branch 382 still has not received a certificate or plaque to be presented to S/M Murrell.

*In Loyalty, Protection, and Service, Respectfully,
Danny Hunt, RPNW and President of Branch 382*

FRAtoday: *Point taken. Mistakes are made, and we published a correction in last month's FRAtoday thanks to your feedback. If you will remember, during the Membership & Retention committee meetings it was announced that NHQ had lost their vendor for the plaques and was looking for another. S/M Murrell will be duly recognized and has personally been recognized by me. In L, P & S, Mick Fulton, National President.*

National Maritime Museum at Greenwich

Great article on the British Maritime Museum. Our progenitors do indeed have a good grip on "the seas."

There's a very good title: To Rule the Waves by Arthur Herman (<https://www.amazon.com/Rule-Waves-Arthur-Herman/dp/0340734191>). The book is an engaging and enjoyable read! It spans centuries from the days of Francis Drake to the war in the Falklands and the author does a very good job of making a book of such wide scope and covering so



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many eras very enlightening and enjoyable.

This is a very good read for Anglophiles and covers about 400 years of how the British Royal Navy allowed one nation to rise to a level of power unprecedented in history.

Morgan Little

FRAtoday: *Dear Captain Little, I am so pleased that you enjoyed the National Maritime Museum story in the December issue of FRAtoday. The research for this one was one of my favorites this year, being as I am a Virginian descended from English stock, and a bit of an Anglophile myself. I'm also an architecture nerd, so that made this one even more of a pleasure. Arthur Herman's book sounds wonderful, so thank you for that recommendation, too. With best regards, Ann Norvell Gray.*

Keep Up the Good Work

Dear Shipmate Jansky,

When I renewed my membership in the Fleet Reserve Association last February, you graciously sent me a pin and letter of appreciation for 50 years of continuous, uninterrupted membership. I want you to know that letter meant a lot to me and was much appreciated. And I want to thank you for your legislative work on Capitol Hill on behalf of all enlisted personnel.

Please keep up your good work!

Sincerely,

Sgt.Maj. LeRoy F. Magargee, USMC (Ret.)

FRAtoday: *This letter was in a stack on my desk that frankly, due to COVID-19, was not looked at as frequently as in previous years since we were working remotely most days. The letter was received in September of 2020 and it was supposed to be published much sooner than February 2021. Bill Stevenson.*

Thank You, America

As we celebrate our Thanksgiving day, on behalf of the Filipinos who served in the United States Armed Forces of America, I would like to express my deep gratitude and a whole heartfelt "Thank you to America."

As citizens of a United States territory, Filipinos were allowed to serve in the U.S. Navy during WWI

and WWII until we were granted our independence in 1947. In 1952, the United States and the Philippines agreed to allow Filipino citizens to join the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. Thousands of Filipinos were recruited and joined the service until the Military Base Agreement was terminated in 1990.

While in the service, some were promoted to officers and their children were selected to go to the Naval Academy. After years of honorable service, they attained high ranks, even up to Admiral. One was Captain Ronald Ravelo, who was the Captain of *USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN* (CVN-72). Rear Admiral Connie Mariano (MC) was assigned to the White House and was the attending physician of President Clinton. Her father was a retired Master Chief Petty Officer who also was assigned a tour of duty to the White House. Admiral Bette Bolivar is the Commander of Navy Southwest Region in San Diego. Her father was also a Retired Chief Petty Officer. There are also a few Filipino Commanders who are Commanding Officer of small ships.

We recognize the trust and confidence of the United States of America for allowing us to serve in the most powerful Armed Forces in the world. Additionally, we are proud that the Philippines is the only country in the world selected to recruit members to join the military service without requiring American citizenship.

Domingo F. Moran, USN (Ret.)

Past President, Branch 8, Vallejo, California

Past President, Filipino-American Retired U.S.

Armed Forces Association, Vallejo, California

FRAtoday: *Shipmate, thank you for your service and also for making the time to send your letter to the magazine. My son-in-law also achieved his citizenship through his commitment to the U.S. Army and made sergeant after three years. There are many Shipmates who feel the same about this wonderful country as you. It is truly the land of opportunity. Bill Stevenson. **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. **Submit** letters to *FRAtoday*, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or to fratoday@fra.org.



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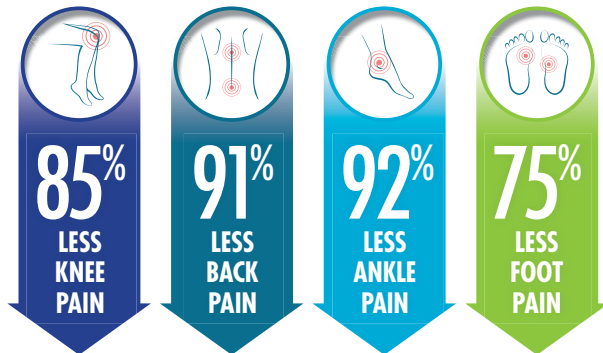
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ON & OFF *capitol hill*

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



John Davis
Director, Legislative Programs

The 2021 Military & Veteran Benefits Survey Now Open

The FRA is conducting a survey to determine which military and veteran's benefits are most important to active duty and Reserve personnel, retirees, veterans and their families. The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FRA21>, and asks you to rate a variety of benefits and quality-of-life programs associated with your service to our nation.

The FRA is asking current and former military personnel and your spouses to share your opinions about the programs you value most. Your responses and comments will provide important reference information when we testify before Congress or meet one-on-one with lawmakers and their staff. We also share the results with elected officials on Capitol Hill, key committee staff, and leaders within the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs to ensure these crucial decision-makers understand your enlisted sea service perspective.

FRA Legislative Team Working to Push Legislative Priorities

As you receive this issue of *FRAtoday* the 117th Congress has been sworn in and has been in several days of session during January, and hopefully the coronavirus vaccine has been successful in stemming the tide of the pandemic.

The most notable change from the last session of Congress is a new president. The FRA staff has met with the Biden transition team to discuss issues of mutual concern (see story on Page 11 for more details). The FRA Legislative Team is working to push for the FRA's legislative priorities for 2021. These priorities have been selected from the FRA's extensive legislative agenda (listed in the January issue of *FRAtoday*) based on the concerns of our members, the number of personnel affected and the potential for

legislative action during the session.

The increasing government funding deficit will continue to put pressure on Congress and the president to find ways to slow the growth of government red ink including more TRICARE fee increases for retirees. The association will oppose legislative efforts to shift more costs (especially health care costs) to beneficiaries.

Members are strongly urged to sign up for NewsBytes and to monitor issues on the FRA Action Center, which has a "user-friendly" method for Shipmates to interact with their elected officials. Use of the Action Center supports the advocacy efforts of the FRA Legislative Team and allows members to directly impact the legislative process in a timely, effective and measurable manner.

Veterans in Congress

According to Washington D.C. newspaper, The Hill, the number of veterans who are serving in the Congress continues a decades-long downward trend. Less than 90 members of the 117th Congress have served in the military, which is the lowest figure in recent years. During the 1970s, at least 70% of lawmakers had served in the military, according to the Pew Research Center. Today, that number is less than 2%, although there are still eight congressional races that have yet to declare a winner.

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

NDAAs Passes with Veto Override

As *FRA today* goes to press, the House and Senate have passed the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R.6395) despite a veto from President Trump. The president stated that he vetoed the must-pass legislation because it did not abolish a law that protects technology companies from liability for most user content and included provisions that would require changing the names of military bases honoring Confederate generals.

The final bill passed the Senate and House by a two-thirds majority, overriding the president's veto. It still contains provisions related to changing the names of military installations named after Confederate generals and does not include anything related to eliminating liability protections for certain social media platforms. Leaders in both chambers have resisted the inclusion of such a massive change to an unrelated issue in the annual NDAA.

The final bill includes several FRA-supported provisions, which include:

- Expanding the list of service-connected presumptions under the Agent Orange statute to incorporate bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism.
- Stopping scheduled cuts to military medical staff for 180 days after the FY2021NDAA is enacted.
- Requiring the DOD to certify to Congress that any restructuring of military treatment facilities will continue to provide access to health care for all beneficiaries, and delaying restructuring until 180 days after the certification has been provided or after

the FY2021NDAA has been enacted, whichever is later.

- Requiring that in post-development health reassessments service members are explicitly asked if they were exposed to a burn pit during their deployment.
- Waiving the 180-day delay for military retirees to begin critical DOD jobs at pay rates of GS-13 and below with limited applicant pools. The provision expires in three years.
- Providing annual active-duty pay increases that keep pace with civilian pay (3%) and increasing hazardous duty pay.
- Improving military family housing with remediation for environmental hazards and supporting families displaced because of mold and other exposures.
- Reforming programs that assist military families who have children with special needs.
- Authorizing \$70.3 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

This is the 60th consecutive year that Congress has passed an annual defense authorization bill. The 4,517-page bill authorizes \$194.8 billion for personnel programs, which is \$1.7 billion less than the Trump administration requested. It increases overall active-duty end strength by 12,000, including 7,300 more billets for the Navy and 5,200 less for the Marine Corps. It also takes steps toward ensuring that housing privatization programs are beneficial to service members and their families.

FRA Staff Meets with Biden-Harris Transition Team

The FRA staff and other members of The Military Coalition's Veterans Committee met with the incoming Biden-Harris transition team to review goals concerning the Department of Veterans Affairs. NED Chris Slawinski serves as co-chair of this TMC committee. The review team, led by Phillip Carter, inquired about specific challenges facing veterans service organizations working with the VA.

The FRA staff and other coalition staff discussed pathways to solving some of the complex issues facing the VA. Due to the pandemic, there has been a sharp increase in the backlogs of VA claims and appeals. The FRA wants to work with the incoming administration on an effective strategy to clear the backlog.

The issue of toxic exposure in the military has gained

new traction due to rising reports of cancers and other illnesses facing veterans of the global war on terrorism. President-elect Joe Biden believes his son Beau's death can be attributed to toxic exposure while serving in Iraq. During the meeting, several proposals were discussed that would benefit veterans who were exposed to toxic agents during their service. The committee also raised concerns about the veteran suicide rate and proper oversight of appropriations and funding for educational benefits such as the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses, or VET TEC, program. The transition team promised to work hand in hand with the community to provide exceptional service to the nation's veterans.

Biden Selects New Secretary of Defense and VA Secretary

President-elect Joe Biden announced that he has selected retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin as his nominee for secretary of defense. Gen. Austin, who would be the first Black leader of the Pentagon,



Official DOD photograph.

needs a congressional waiver to serve because he does not meet the requirement of being out of the military for at least seven years before filling the Pentagon's top civilian job. Austin led the U.S. Central Command until he retired in 2016 and has served in the military since graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 1975. His appointment has run into bipartisan resistance on Capitol Hill, where there are growing concerns about another former commander leading the Pentagon in a nation that has a long tradition of civilian control of the military.

President-elect Biden also announced he will nominate Denis McDonough, who served as White House chief of staff under President Obama, to head the Department of Veterans Affairs. McDonough, a longtime Senate staffer, also served as a deputy national security adviser during the Obama administration.

President Trump Signs an Omnibus Veterans Bill

President Trump recently signed into law the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R.7105), which lawmakers described as an end-of-year omnibus bill for veterans. The law is more than 340 pages and includes numerous provisions for female veterans, Native American veterans, homeless veterans, student veterans and those veterans who are experiencing the

effects of toxic exposures as well as those affected by the coronavirus.

The law creates a dedicated Office of Women's Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides \$20 million to retrofit VA hospitals with women's health spaces and makes permanent a program to provide child care at VA facilities, among other measures.

COVID-19 Update

As *FRAtoday* goes to press, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that essential health care workers at the VA will be the first to be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. The VA has a limited number of vaccines and the distribution plan addresses vaccinations for veterans, staff and other federal partners. The plan also includes a prioritization framework for identifying the population(s) at highest risk for COVID-19. For more information on the VA vaccine program, go

to: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>.

The Department of Defense has announced that its health care workers have begun receiving the vaccine. The Defense Department's initial allocation of the vaccine is 43,875 doses. Each of the initial 16 U.S. military bases included in the first round of distribution has more than 1,000 people who are in the top priority group to receive vaccines, such as health care workers.

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DOD Releases Survey of Active-duty Spouses

FRA Director of Legislative Programs John Davis participated in a conference call with Department of Defense officials to discuss the findings of the 2019 active-duty spouses survey. Since 1985, the survey has been conducted every two years. This year's report, like those in previous years, provides the DOD with information on how to adjust family policy in the coming years. During the call, Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness William Bushman said, "These survey results are important because they help us evaluate policy and program success, address issues and gaps in resources, and identify areas for necessary improvement."

As part of the 2019 survey, more than 65,200 active-duty military spouses were invited to participate. A little more than 10,000, or about 16.5% of invited spouses, opted to take part. Survey topics included employment, deployment,

reintegration and satisfaction with military life. Some of the results were:

- 56% are satisfied with military life (down from 60% in 2017).
- 22% are unemployed, which has not changed significantly since 2013.
- One in five rate deployment support as excellent.
- 42% with children use military childcare.
- 21% report marital stress due to finances.
- 65% are comfortable using military family counseling (only 17% have used counseling).
- 95% of children in deployed families report stable routine.
- 23% enrolled in school or occupational training (41% are not but would like to be enrolled).

Because the survey was completed in 2019, the effects of COVID-19 did not play a part in the survey.

Disabled Veterans Security and Free Access to National Parks

President Trump signed into law several legislative proposals impacting veterans. One of the laws (P.L. 116-205) provides permanently disabled veterans free, lifetime access to national parks and other federal lands. "This bipartisan bill would allow our brave military men and women living with service-related disabilities the opportunity to experience our federal parks and lands, which can play an important role in their rehabilitation," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.), the bill's sponsor.

Another bill signed into law was the Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act (P.L. 116-212), sponsored by Sen. Joe Manchin (W.Va.) was drafted in response to the tragic murder of several veteran patients at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg, West Virginia, by a former nursing assistant who is awaiting sentencing for their deaths. This bipartisan legislation will require the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit detailed reports on patient safety and quality of care at VA medical centers. The legislation also ensures that Congress, veterans and their families are fully informed on the policies and procedures in place across the VA nationally.

BAH Rate Adjustment for 2021

The Department of Defense recently announced Basic Allowance for Housing adjustments for 2021. The DOD noted that overall, military BAH rates across the country increased an average of 2.9% between 2020 and 2021, slightly higher than the 2.8% increase from 2019 to 2020.

The BAH rates are based on the combined local costs of rent and utilities for various housing types. Any fluctuation of one or more of those factors in a given location will affect BAH rates for that location. BAH is also based on pay grade and dependency status. BAH is designed to provide uniformed service members

housing compensation based on housing costs in their duty station's local market. BAH is only payable when government quarters, such as barracks, are not provided; when a service member reaches a certain rank and chooses to move off-base; or when a service member has dependents.

The FRA monitors BAH and is working to restore it to 100% of housing costs. The association also wants to track BAH to ensure it is commensurate with actual housing costs, ensure adequate housing inventory and reform enlisted housing standards by calculating BAH to account for E-7s and above residing in detached homes.

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Change in Committee Leadership

The retirements of Reps. Dr. Phil Roe (Tenn.) and Mac Thornberry (Texas), ranking members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and House Armed Services Committee, respectively, have provided openings on these two important committees. The ranking member is the leading member of the minority party on the committee. The House Republican Caucus selected Rep. Mike Rogers (Ala.) for ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee and Rep. Mike Bost (Ill.) for ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs' Committee. Their promotions took effect upon the start of the new (117th) Congress that began Jan. 3.

Physical Disability Board of Review of Disability Claims Continues

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

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

The review panel is authorized to recommend an increase in a disability rating, uphold the previous finding or issue a disability rating when the previous board did not assign

one. The board, however, is not able to recommend a lower rating.

Eligible veterans can request a board review by submitting a Department of Defense Form 294, Application for Review of Physical Disability Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States, which can be downloaded at <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Disability-Evaluation/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review/PDBR-Application-Process>. Veterans requesting a review must mail their completed and signed DD Form 294 to SAF/MRBR, 550 C St. W., Suite 41, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4743. Applicants may submit statements, briefs, medical records or affidavits supporting their application.

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

The Dark Art of Democracy

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires that all congressional districts must be re-drawn this year. Based on the 2020 Census results, the Census Bureau determines how many congressional districts will be allocated to each state. This apportionment is delivered to the president, who delivers it to the clerk of the House, who then sends it to the governor of each state. Based on current data, Alabama, California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia will probably lose one congressional seat. Florida will pick up two seats and Texas will gain three congressional seats starting in 2022. Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina, Montana, and Virginia are expected to gain one seat.

In most cases, the state legislature draws the map for congressional districts, and it must be approved by the governor. Every candidate for a House of Representatives

seat in 2022 will be running in a new district, except for those in states with just one district. How these districts are drawn can influence election results. Redrawing congressional district boundaries tends to be a highly partisan activity.

Though various laws and court decisions have put constraints on redistricting, many redistricting institutions continue to practice gerrymandering, which involves drawing new districts with the intention of giving a political advantage to one political party over the other. If one party controls both chambers of the state legislature and the governorship, known as a "trifecta" they can draw boundary lines that are highly favorable for their party. That is why redistricting is sometimes called "the Dark Art of Democracy." Based on election results from 2020, the Republicans have a trifecta in 23 states and the Democrats have a trifecta in 15 states. **FRA**

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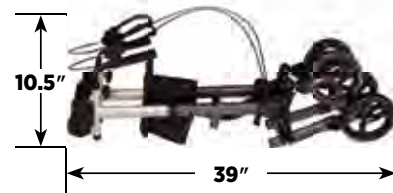


It's a cruel fact of life, as we age, gravity takes over. Our muscles droop, our bodies sag and the weight of the world seems to be planted squarely on our shoulders. We dread taking a fall, so we find ourselves walking less and less- and that only makes matters worse.

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to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists. Helps reduce back, neck and wrist pain and discomfort. Its unique frame gives you plenty of room to step, and the oversized wheels help you glide across the floor. The height can be easily adjusted with the push of a button to fit anyone from 5' to over 6'. Once you've reached your destination you can use the hand brakes to gently slow down, and there's even a handy seat with a storage compartment. Its sleek, lightweight design makes it easy to use indoors and out and it folds up for portability and storage.



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Carroll "Jay" Shultz at Great Lakes Naval Training Station in 1936. Shultz was aboard the *USS LEXINGTON* (CV-2) during the mid- to late 1930s, and was then assigned to Fleet Wing 7 (FAW7) where he served in Patrol Aircraft Service Unit 7-C Naval Air Facility Dunkeswell in Devon, England from 1944 to 1945. Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Fleet Air Wing 7

A Temporary Force that Made a Lasting Impression

By Elise M. Howard

In June 1943, a primarily Irish construction team looked out over the completed military base they had spent the past year building. They could only hope that this rapidly assembled airfield outside the quiet country village of Dunkeswell in Devon, England, would help turn the tide of the Battle of the Atlantic. Thanks to German U-boats prowling the Atlantic sea-lanes, Britons were short on everything except carrots, it seemed. In the past six months alone, over 1 million tons of desperately needed supplies had met a futile end at sea.

However, the Royal Air Force was stretched

thin and did not have aircraft available with the range needed for anti-submarine patrols in the Bay of Biscay to the south. Furthermore, the previous year the Germans had developed Metox, a device that could detect the long-wave metric radar used by British patrol craft. Fortunately, American B-24s — or PB4Y-1s, as the Navy had designated them — had an extraordinary range of 2,850 miles and used centimetric radar, undetectable by Metox. Thus, the U.S. agreed to temporarily provide Consolidated B-24 Liberators and their aircrews to support the Royal Air Force's Coastal Command at Dunkeswell Airfield.



Although the Liberator immediately impressed Army and Navy brass with its extensive range of 2,850 miles, 303 mph max speed and 8,000-pound bomb-carrying capacity, most of its pilots were far from enthusiastic. Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Americans Arrive at Dunkeswell

The Army's 479th Anti-Submarine Group arrived at Dunkeswell Aug. 6, 1943. They were replaced by the U.S. Navy's Fleet Air Wing 7 in September 1943, however, after changes in Washington shifted the responsibility for anti-submarine warfare from the Army to the Navy.

"When the Americans came, it was ... like in the playground, you had a big brother come to look after you or something. You felt more secure after they come," Dunkeswell resident Peter Clist recalled in an interview for the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's Dunkeswell War Stories project. "The whole atmosphere in the village was different. ... I think people were on the point of giving up in 1942."

Upon arrival, the American sailors discovered that the "finished" airfield was not, in fact, complete. Several off-runway facilities were missing or under construction, and some of the "roads" were simply well-worn paths that could not support heavy equipment and became mud pits in the damp climate. Additionally, although the Royal Air Force had agreed to operate the base facilities and maintain the Liberators, serious shortages

of food, equipment and skilled personnel made it impossible for the RAF to adequately meet these obligations. The Navy therefore brought in additional supplies and personnel, eventually taking over base operations entirely in 1944. This made Naval Air Facility Dunkeswell the only American base in Britain during WWII.

A Typical Day at Dunkeswell

Navy life at Dunkeswell typically followed a predictable three- or four-day routine. On the first day, the crews would prepare their aircraft, and the next day, they would fly their assigned missions. The third day they had off to rest, possibly followed by a day of training. Groups were rotated so that patrols were in the air daily.

On their mission days, aircrews woke up around 4 a.m. and were driven from the barracks to the mess hall for breakfast. There they also picked up prepacked lunches before proceeding to the Operations Block for a flight briefing. This briefing typically included the patrol flight pattern for the day, a weather report, recent enemy activity, and intelligence on U-boat and Luftwaffe



A Consolidated PB4Y-1 patrol bomber receives a new propeller while undergoing maintenance at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia, in December 1943. Note the hand-powered crane and the JM-1 target tug in the left background. Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

movements secretly obtained by British code-breakers at Bletchley Park.

After checking out all necessary equipment, Liberator crews took to the air to fly a repetitive patrol grid for an often monotonous 10 or more hours. The teams scanned for U-boats with radar, listened for them through sonobuoys and looked for them with binoculars, hoping for the opportunity to release their 8,000 pounds of ordnance, including depth charges, torpedoes and the still secret “Zombie” homing torpedoes.

“There were 10 crewmen on the B-24 and three of us were radiomen, and we alternated between radio and radar and resting,” Bombing Squadron 114 radioman Jerry Brotherson explained for the Dunkeswell War Stories project. “The radioman did very little but listen for a signal, which we very seldom got, and then the radar was just sitting in the other corner of the flight deck looking at something like a round television screen.”

Although the PB4Y-1 had 10 .50-caliber machine guns with which to defend itself, the large aircraft patrolling alone made an easy target for German

fighter planes. In response to rising U-boat losses in 1943, Germany began to send attack groups of six to 12 Junkers Ju-88C fighters to hunt down Liberators in the Bay of Biscay. Over the course of the war, Fleet Air Wing 7 lost 23 Liberators and 178 sailors. But as the war dragged on and took its toll on the Luftwaffe, German fighters became a less and less frequent sight in the skies over Europe.

In addition to the mental and emotional exhaustion produced by hours of vigilant searching and the ever-present fear of Ju-88s, the Liberator was physically exhausting to fly.

“The controls are very mushy on a B-24,” said B-24 pilot John McManus in an interview for Timeless Media Group’s documentary “Warbirds of WWII.” “In tight formation, you’re constantly moving throttles and the rudders and the ailerons all the time, just continually moving everything. It was hard work! We worked 15 minutes apiece, the two pilots, and after 15 minutes, you were ready for a rest.”

Fellow B-24 pilot Bill Foster explained for “Warbirds of WWII” that “flying formation was real heavy on the



The flight equipment of each Liberator crew at Dunkeswell included homing pigeons, which were used for relaying messages to Coastal Command when radio silence was required for the mission or when radio equipment failed. It was quickly discovered that due to the PB4Y-1 having a cruising speed of 175 mph, it was necessary to put a pigeon into a bag before releasing it to prevent the rushing air from instantly stripping the bird of its feathers. Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

rudders. We all got what they call ‘B-24 knees,’ especially at altitude.”

Well-Deserved Days Off

Needless to say, when the crews returned from their missions, they were ready for their day of rest. In their free time at the Dunkeswell village bar and other local establishments, many of the sailors developed close bonds with the British civilians. They treated local kids to their rations of candy and chewing gum, visited sweethearts they had met at base dances, and invited local families to movie nights, live boxing matches and other events on base. Annette Hart, who was a child at the time, recalled in an interview for the Dunkeswell War Stories project how one homesick sailor visited often and became deeply involved in the family.

“I didn’t have any shoes; I think my mum tried to make me a little pair of slipper things out of rabbit skins,” she said. “But he said, ‘You’ve got to have some shoes.’ I can remember him taking me to Honiton (a nearby town) and buying me a pair of little red shoes.”

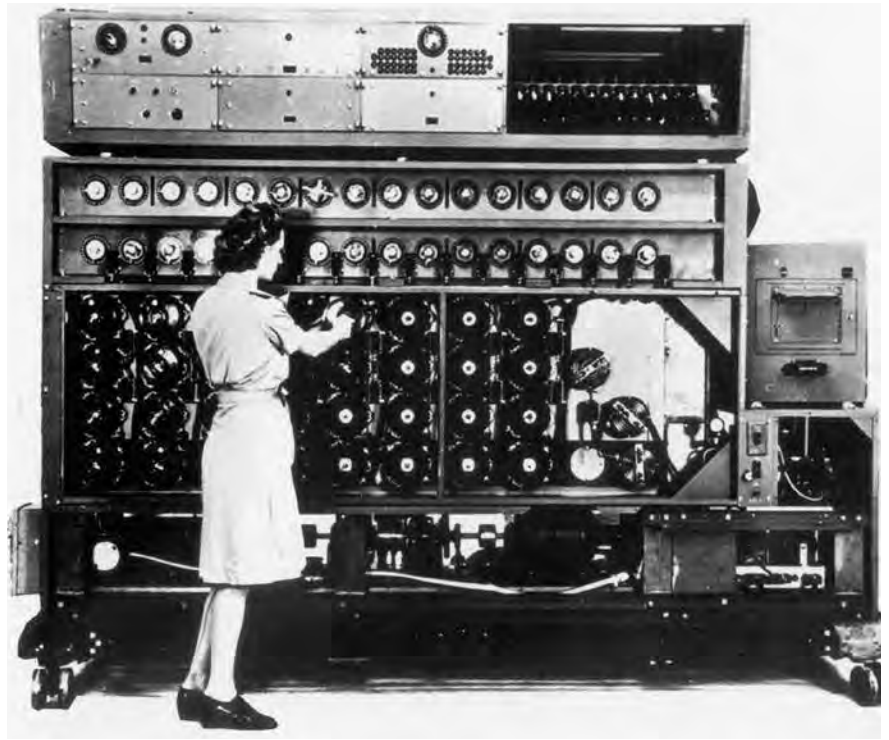
Malcolm Stevens, also a child in Dunkeswell during WWII, recalled with a smile the special bond he had with some Navy officers.

“Two of the American officers would come down and pick me up in their Jeep and give me a hat to put on, an American hat, and then we could drive around and visit the guards,” he said in an interview for the Dunkeswell War Stories project. “They called me ‘Sergeant Stevens.’”

A particularly fond memory for many who were children at the time is the Christmas party hosted at the base each year. All the Dunkeswell children were treated to an American Christmas dinner, complete with turkey and the ever-baffling cranberry sauce, and given gifts that the sailors had made themselves. Doll-size wooden tables and chairs, toy torpedo boats, monkeys on a stick, and tiny dolls helped make Christmas special for children living through austere rationing, “Make Do and Mend” hand-me-downs and empty chairs at the holiday dinner table.

Turning the Tide of a Six-Year Battle

Fleet Air Wing 7’s presence in the Bay of Biscay helped shift the advantage in the Battle of the Atlantic. During their nearly two years at Dunkeswell, these intrepid sailors discovered and attacked 65 U-boats, sinking seven of them and damaging another 11. Prior to Dunkeswell Airfield’s completion in June 1943, Allied merchant ship losses ranged from 27 to 82 ships per month in 1943.



Fleet Air Wing 7 arrived in September 1943, and after October, merchant ship losses in the Atlantic would never again exceed seven per month. Of course, Fleet Air Wing 7 served as just one component of the Allies' larger anti-submarine campaign, which found success in new radar, ship-tracking and navigational technologies; improved convoy strategies; the invention of submarine-specific ordnance; the creation of escort craft; and relentless hours of Enigma and Tunny machine code-breaking.

Following V-E Day, Fleet Air Wing 7 accepted the surrender of five nearby U-boats. Some of the Liberators at Dunkeswell were flown back to the U.S. and promptly mothballed; others were scrapped on the airfield by Seabees. But one thing that outlasted the Liberators, the U-boats and even the base was the deep connection forged between the people of Dunkeswell and the American sailors who served there. That homesick sailor who bought shoes for little Annette Hart? He came back years later.

"He came to the front door, and he stood there and he cried," Hart recounted with tears in her eyes. "He'd carried those two photographs with him, right from 1945, of this little cottage, which gave him so much pleasure while he was away, and us three scruffy children sat (down) with him." **FRA**



Top left: Joseph Kennedy Jr., elder brother of John F. Kennedy, flew PB4Y-1s with Patrol Bombing Squadron 110 at Dunkeswell during WWII. His death on Aug. 12, 1944, occurred during an unrelated top secret mission he had volunteered for. Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Top right: A woman operates a "bombe" Enigma decryption machine, which used an automated process of elimination to decipher intercepted German messages. The fact that the German code had been broken was such a closely guarded Allied secret that even the pilots at Dunkeswell who received the intelligence gained by this process believed that the information came from spies in the field. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Above: Naval Air Facility Dunkeswell earned the nickname "Mudville Heights" from its American sailors due to the damp climate of Southwestern England often turning unpaved country roads — on and off the airfield — into muddy quagmires. Photo courtesy of the UK Airfields & Airports.



The desire to put effective military operations underwater has motivated peoples and nations for centuries. This is not surprising, since the waters that cover the earth have always been the passages connecting people from where they are to where they want to go — complicated, of course, by who they have to get by to get there. Early in the 17th century, a Dutch engineer working for England’s King James I presented a craft propelled by six oars that could carry 16 passengers, cruise 4 to 5 meters deep and stay submerged for three hours, creating oxygen by heating saltpeter. It was, however, propelled only by the oarsmen and not by any oxygen-grabbing or cabin-fouling engine.

In the 1860s, an Italian designer developed a double-hulled wooden underwater craft and invented an air-independent power system, which used a chemical process to drive the screw while releasing oxygen into the hull for the crew and the auxiliary steam engine. Decades

later, it was the havoc wreaked by deadly German U-boats during the First World War inspired American improvements in undersea engineering, resulting in the Gato-class and Balao-class submarines that proved instrumental in turning the tide of the Second World War’s Pacific theater.

***USS BOWFIN* Serves**

Enter the *USS BOWFIN* (SS-287), one of these Balao-class fleet attack submarines, which was laid down in Maine in 1942. It launched on Dec. 7, 1942, the first anniversary of the “date which will live in infamy,” as President Franklin D. Roosevelt had declared it, with the nickname “The Pearl Harbor Avenger.” So there is a satisfying symmetry to the ship’s meticulous renovation and current berth in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where it now serves as a museum. It is part of the larger group that includes the *USS ARIZONA*, perhaps the harbor’s most

USS BOWFIN (SS-287)

“The Pearl Harbor Avenger” Returns to Hawaii to Stay

By Ann Norvell Gray

Photo courtesy of Depositphotos.





Sleeping quarters with hanging triple bunk beds on *USS BOWFIN*. Photo by Klodian.

widely known memorial, and has more visitors than any other submarine museum in the world.

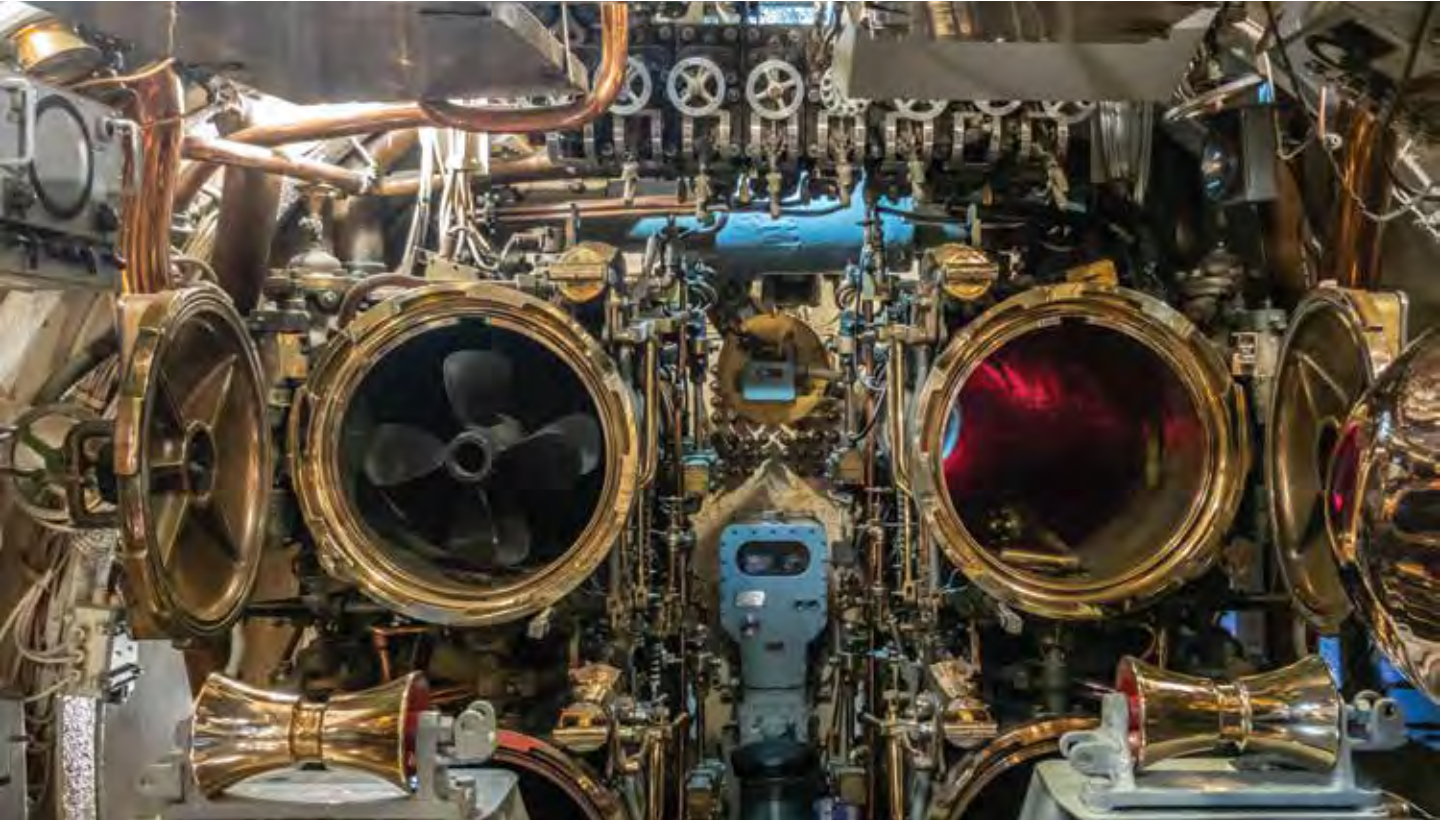
The *USS BOWFIN* completed nine war patrols between August of 1943 and July of 1945. Its first was conducted secretly and focused primarily on the resupply and rescue of guerrilla fighters throughout the Pacific, many of whom had escaped from Japanese prisoner of war camps. In a memo now preserved by the Naval History and Heritage Command, the Navy's 7th Fleet Intelligence Center described these missions this way:

"Early in 1942, the few Americans who escaped Prisoner of War or Internment Camps hid in remote parts of the Philippine Archipelago where there was no rapid dependable means of sending our forces any information they might get. Accordingly, it was decided to test the feasibility of making landings by submarine, (to) supply small communication and coast watcher units in the Philippines. ... At about 5-week intervals, small parties of personnel with about 2 tons of stores each were landed at various points in the central and southern Philippines by

special submarine missions carried out during their regular war patrols."

BOWFIN's ninth and last patrol took it in a group of nine submarines called "Hydeman's Hellcats" on another secret mission. In wolf packs of three, they sailed from Guam, using a new sonar system to negotiate a minefield from the East China Sea into the treacherous Sea of Japan. After a successful run up the eastern coast of Korea, *BOWFIN* and seven of the other eight made a fast run for it on the surface. They made it out of "the Emperor's Backyard," passing north of Hokkaido, and home to Pearl Harbor. Of the nine, *USS BONEFISH* (SS-223) was the only one of the "Hellcats" that did not return.

By the end of the war, in addition to its supply and rescue operations, *BOWFIN* had rid the Pacific of four passenger-cargo ships, one captured French cargo ship, one tanker, two schooners, seven cargo ships, one frigate and one auxiliary patrol boat. After V-J Day, it was recommissioned twice as a training ship before being struck from the Navy's list.



A close-up of two of the 10 total torpedo tubes aboard the *USS BOWFIN*. Guests can easily see the complexity of the machinery operated by American submariners before the digital age. Photo by Klodien.

Life After Decommissioning

The Naval History and Heritage Command is charged with collecting and conserving the artifacts and records of decommissioned vessels' histories. Ten museums fall under the direct control of the command, but the preservation of ships like the *USS BOWFIN* after their functional value to the Navy ends is driven purely by the dedication of individuals and the private entities they create and nurture.

BOWFIN's progress toward its role as a museum ship began in 1972 with a request to the secretary of the Navy from Adm. Bernard A. "Chick" Clarey, a WWII submariner and Pearl Harbor survivor, and Rear Adm. Paul L. Lacy that *BOWFIN* be acquired for this purpose. A 1956 act of Congress authorized such transfers by the secretary of the Navy to appropriate nonprofits who covenanted to restore and maintain obsolete U.S. Navy vessels. Thus, the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association was formed as such a nonprofit, and by August of 1979, the venerable *USS BOWFIN* was theirs.

The deteriorating veteran ship was moved to Pearl

Harbor, meticulously and lovingly restored, and outfitted for its new role as the centerpiece of what is now the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park. Since then, it has also had its turn as a movie star, playing the part of three different submarines in the TV miniseries "War and Remembrance," based on James Michener's WWII novel of the same name. It has also turned up in a number of other television productions, and in 2019, it appeared in the movie "Midway" as the *USS NAUTILUS* (SS-168).

Stepping Inside "The Pearl Harbor Avenger"

Today, the *BOWFIN* offers self-guided tours that include an audio guide. The gangway takes you up to the bow and onto the *BOWFIN*'s deck. From there, you can see immediately how long and slender it is, very like the Balao fish for whom its class is named. The interiors are entirely intact and utterly immaculate. Most visitors remark that they could not imagine serving in such close quarters or operating and maintaining the incredibly complex



A close-up of a depth gauge on *USS BOWFIN*. Balao-class submarines like *BOWFIN* were tested up to a depth of 400 feet. Photo by Klodian.

mechanical devices that predate the digital world. TripAdvisor reviews that reflect typical guest remarks include, “Had no idea (about) the inner workings of a sub. Fantastic!!” and, “Sleeping quarters where the torpedoes launch. Very brave men!” The brilliant, polished finish on every inch of brass in the forward torpedo room is a testament to the care with which this veteran is kept shipshape.

Unique Outdoor Exhibits

At the water’s edge there is a simple, elegant Waterfront Memorial dedicated to the submarines and lives lost during World War II. Around the grounds, visitors can get a good look at the conning tower from the *USS PARCHE* (SS-384); the McCann rescue chamber that made enough trips to rescue all 33 surviving crewmen from the sunken *USS SQUALUS* (SS-192) in 1939; and a Regulus I nuclear-armed, turbojet-powered cruise missile from the Cold War years. But perhaps the most chilling piece of hardware on the grounds is a Japanese manned Kaiten torpedo, a big, fast, dangerous

weapon with no escape hatch, from which no pilot ever tried to escape anyway.

A Growing Museum and Library

The museum has housed a modest collection of artifacts and memorabilia, including a collection of battle flags hung from its rafters and the ship’s bell from *BOWFIN*, which lay unnoticed in someone’s attic until it was unearthed and donated. When its ongoing renovation is complete later this year, there will be much more on offer, so keep an eye online for that. There is also an extensive research library, which includes submarine-related photographs, manuals, and monographs, as well as a nearly complete set of WWII submarine war patrol reports.

Remembering Those Lost

The Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association is responsible for the care of *BOWFIN*, the museum and the surrounding outdoor exhibits in the park, but it has done much more. On the museum’s sister website, <http://www.OnEternalPatrol.com>,

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Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people.

Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation... The Zinger.

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough... a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"
—Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the **Zinger** is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum. It weighs only 47.2 lbs but can handle a passenger that's up to 275 lbs! It features one-touch folding and unfolding—when

folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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A small, gray metal desk and typewriter aboard the *USS BOWFIN*. Photo by Klodian.

USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park

11 Arizona Memorial Drive

Honolulu, HI 96818

808-423-1341

Gift Shop: <https://shopbowfin.com/>

808-423-6394

Website: www.bowfin.org

Memorial Website:

www.oneternalpatrol.com/

Donation Contact: curator@bowfin.org

Admission

Adult: \$15

Child (4-12 years): \$7

Child (0-3 years): Free, but not allowed aboard the *USS BOWFIN* for safety reasons.

Adult, Military/Kama'aina*: \$8

Child, Military/Kama'aina*: \$4

Military in uniform: Free

**Kama'aina is Hawaiian for "child of the land," and refers to residents of Hawaii, regardless of racial origin.*

the intention is to present a full memorial page to every American lost in the "silent service." This is how the website describes their mission: "Since the acceptance of the first submarine into the U.S. Navy in 1900, over four thousand men have lost their lives in the Silent Service. The great majority of them died in the period between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945. ... Submariners of all eras are included in the presentation." Because of the diligence of their researchers, they are nearing their goal of putting a face to every name on the list. No visitor to this site can help but be moved by its commitment and dignity.

Visiting the *BOWFIN*

Due to changing local health conditions and safety requirements, if you have the good luck to be in Honolulu and want to visit the USS Bowfin

Submarine Museum & Park, you should look over their website and Facebook page or call the museum directly to find out what you can see and what is expected of you. As *FRA* today goes to press, a major renovation and expansion of the facilities is being completed. Construction is done, and the installation of exhibits has begun, after which there will be much more to see and do.

In its most recent update, the management reported that "We are currently on track for a soft opening of our museum in mid to late January and a grand reopening in February – March. We will keep you updated as we progress through the installation process so stay tuned!" In the meantime, you can take a virtual tour of what is available online. There is much to see and learn about the vessels of the "silent service" and those who have served ever since the first U.S. Navy diving ship headed down into the briny deep. **FRA**



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

ADVERTISEMENT

Ask The Expert

Love, Marriage, and
Sex After 50!

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

A Secret Any Man Can Use...

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

Tina writes: Dear Karen,

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

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

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

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

Karen, my husband has been taking one tablet each morning with breakfast, but the pack is almost empty and we both



"My husband shocked me with more passion than he's had in years. He took me in the bedroom like we were newlyweds and gave me a night I'll never forget!"

desperately want more. Do you know about these European tablets and how to get some in the States?

Sincerely,

Tina D., Fort Worth, TX

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

Milled on the fertile northern plains, and sold under the brand name Provarin, these pure plant extracts have a legendary reputation throughout Europe for naturally fueling extremely hard erections. As Giovanni from Milan put it, "It's like bedroom rocket fuel - especially for us older guys!"

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

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

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

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

1-800-519-3376.

Aren't you glad you asked?

Karen

These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Dramatic portrayal. Results atypical. Your results may vary. In order to assure confidentiality, identifying details, scenarios have been changed, modified or fictionalized. Always consult your health care provider before taking any supplement. Offer not available to Iowa residents.



Above: A recent photo of PNP Mark A. Kilgore with his wife, Babe.
Right: Past President Kilgore received his president's plaque from then National Executive Director Joseph Barnes.



Chief Petty Officer Mark A. Kilgore

U.S. Navy and Marine Corps (Retired)

June 8, 1952 to Dec. 8, 2020

FRA National President 2012-2013

Mark Allen Kilgore joined the staff of the Supreme Commander on Dec. 8, 2020. He was very active within the organization throughout the years and served as regional vice president southeast for two terms (2002-2004) and then as national president (2012-2013). Kilgore was born June 8, 1952, in Washington, D.C., and graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School located in Bethesda, Maryland, in 1970. He was an Eagle Scout and served both in the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps beginning Dec. 21, 1971, at Parris Island, South Carolina.

He married Primitiva Palitayan "Babe" Kilgore in Olongapo City, Philippines, on Aug. 25, 1973. Kilgore attended East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, where he achieved his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982. He went on to receive his Master of Arts degree in 1985 from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Following his assignments in the Philippines, Japan, California and South Carolina, Kilgore's request for interservice transfer was accepted and he became one of the initial 140 sailors and 20 Marines selected for the Navy's new Religious Program Specialist rating. He retired from military service in 2001.

Kilgore transferred to the Fleet Reserve on Feb. 28, 2001, after achieving the highest enlisted rank of E-9 as a religious program specialist master chief on March 16, 1991. Some of his assignments included: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Marine Aircraft wings from October 1974 to January 1979; 2nd Marine Division from March 1979 to October 1982; *USS RANGER* (CV-61) from November 1985 to January 1988; served for the Commander of Naval Surface Force Pacific Fleet from January 1988 to July 1989; served for the Commander of Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet from July 1989 to October 1990; Chief of Naval Education and Training from



Past President Kilgore with his wife, Babe.

October 1990 to June 1993; *USS OGDEN* (LPD-5) from June 1993 to March 1996; and *USS KIDD* (DDG-993) from May 1996 to March 1998.

Some of the medals and awards he received were: Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (3), Achievement Medals (4), Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals (2), Navy Good Conduct Medals (6), National Defense Service Medals (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals (2), Southwest Asia Service Medals (2) and Expert Rifle Marksmanship Medal.

While Kilgore was FRA national president from 2012 to 2013, he wrote: "During my campaign year for national vice president and my early travels this past year, I stressed the importance of personalization in all our membership matters. This is especially critical in our communications with our renewing and/or past due members. Although we may be recruiting well, we are not focusing nearly as much energy towards retaining our members, which is the primary reason for our

decline in membership. To me, personalization is not what is said but rather that you cared to say anything at all. Over the past year our dedicated headquarters staff, or 'Team FRA' as I call them, have worked and prepared to bring the renewal process in-house, which will provide the control and flexibility to personalize our renewal notices while creating greater cost savings for the association. A huge BRAVO ZULU to Team FRA for working so hard behind the scenes in addition to their regular work to make this happen over the past year." Kilgore also felt that strategic planning at HQ needed to continue.

Past National President Mark A. Kilgore of Pensacola Branch 22 is survived by his wife, Babe; a sister; two sons Matthew Kilgore and Jacob Kilgore; and his grandchildren. There was no public viewing, and per his request, he was cremated. His final services and internment are planned to be held at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, Florida, on Feb. 23 at 2:30 p.m. **FRA**

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THE FRA CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING Shipmates who became Life Members during the fourth quarter of 2020. The listing, which is arranged alphabetically and by the month joined, includes each member's branch number or Member-at-Large (MAL) designation. Call 1-800-FRA-1924 to learn how you can become a Life Member of the Fleet Reserve Association.

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Hogan, Patricia K.	46	Sallay, Jeffrey E.	46		
Hollenshead, Raymond E.	264	Sanders, Otis	MAL		
Houser, Michael W.	MAL	Scannapieco, Peter	24		
Houston, Ernest S.	MAL	Scarpine, James Sr.	99		
		Sink, Randall S.	61		

NOVEMBER

Adams, David Leroy	201
Albertson, Louis	MAL
Alegria, Dorothy L.	40
Anderson, Eric C.	93
Ascione, Lawrence	24
Bailey, James R.	105
Barron, Robert J.	70
Barth, Kimberly	24
Beck, Michael L.	MAL
Blalock, Thomas F.	269
Brightbill, Jeffrey A.	115
Burtner, Lester E.	MAL
Campbell, Miguel	97
Cansler, Bruce	61
Catterton, James P.	24
Cleaves, Charles	MAL
Contant, Lawrence E.	289
Culp, John R.	17
Danosky, Charles L., Jr.	MAL
Deweese, Melvin H.	MAL
Drake, Bruce L.	24
Earp, Janet A.	MAL
Erickson, Eric E.	24
Fonseca, Jesse T.	46
Forgie, Wayne A., Jr.	MAL
Fryer, Charles H.	40
Glover, William S.	70
Green, Terry W.	MAL
Greene, Charles E.	MAL
Guevin, Gerald J.	289
Hale, Russell	269
Hardie, Bruce D.	MAL
Hare, Ronald J.	MAL

T

DECEMBER



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What is the FRA All About?



Christina
Hitchcock

Have you ever found yourself confronted by the question, “What is the FRA about?” Perhaps you were chatting with friends or maybe you had met other retirees or veterans at a public event? In any case, we thought it would be handy to equip Shipmates with a simple description of the FRA’s mission and the activities that happen so the next time you’re in that situation, you are better prepared to answer that simple question.

The Fleet Reserve Association is an advocacy group. Nationally, the FRA’s primary mission is to represent the interests of Shipmates on Capitol Hill during the lawmaking processes that govern our nation. The membership dues and donations raised for the FRA are used to deliver persuading messages to lawmakers on the behalf of our members and their families to ensure that the hard-earned privileges and benefits of service are preserved and expanded, rather than stripped down or canceled entirely.

To complete this mission, the FRA stays abreast of political and policy making discussions in and around Washington, D.C., and weighs in whenever possible. Throughout the nearly 100 years of the FRA’s existence, we have scored many victories on behalf of Shipmates. Some of the most notable include supporting the TRICARE for Life initiative, protecting military retirement benefits and securing pay increases for career enlisted personnel.

The FRA engages its membership through a network of branches, committees and leadership opportunities. Once a year, the association’s leaders meet for a national convention to review association business, including legislative priorities, improvements and amendments to the national bylaws, and the selection and installation of new personnel into key roles. Through these efforts and the combined experience of hundreds of volunteers, the FRA pursues a vigorous agenda of legislative priorities. During the 116th Congress, which ran from January 2019



National President Donna Jansky testified before Congress in 2020 regarding important issues on the behalf of Shipmates. Staff photo.

to January 2021, the FRA recorded at least 21 specific achievements in the interests of branch-affiliated Shipmates and Members-at-Large.

The most powerful tool Shipmates have is the FRA Action Center. During that same period, more than 73,000 emails were sent to elected representatives and other key personnel using the Action Center. The FRA’s national headquarters staff use this information to focus their efforts on the messages that are of greatest importance to Shipmates and their families. Shipmates can send as many messages as they want at no cost, so it is a great way to ensure voices are heard.

Whether Shipmates served at sea or on land, they share a bond common to all the sea services — the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard — in that they learned to live and work in close quarters, where teamwork and a strict commitment to precision and discipline were of particular importance. The FRA’s national headquarters sees these traits borne out every day in its interactions with Shipmates and other constituents. We are proud to pursue their needs and priorities on their behalf. **FRA**

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Christina Hitchcock

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

1. BRANCH 226, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

On Nov. 16, 2020, a plaque was presented to Marine Science Technician 2nd Class Abigail Caudill, who was selected as the U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York Enlisted Person for the third quarter. (L to R) Command Master Chief Robert Riemer, FRA Branch 226 President James Brown, MST2 Abigail Caudill and Chief Petty Officers Association President Senior Chief Petty Officer Chris Martinez.

**2. BRANCH 316, SPRINGFIELD, MO.**

Shipmates of Ozark Empire Branch attended the 6th Annual Veterans Ball that was put on by the Student Veterans of Springfield, to honor the heroes of the Vietnam War. (L to R) Nolon Moody, Bernie Daum, Branch President Tom Newsom, Chuck Duff, Hugh Mills, RVPNC Maria Behm, Robert Behm and Branch Secretary Chuck Ewy.

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

Camp Lejeune Branch Shipmate Tim Manchester and his wife Jennifer are proud to announce their daughter Brittany has joined the United States Air Force and began her Basic Military Training in late 2020.

**4. BRANCH 40, CHESAPEAKE, VA.**

FRA National Vice President Jim Campbell and LA FRA National President Jackie Scarbro placed a memorial wreath to honor the fallen at the Flag Retirement Ceremony held at the branch home. Boy Scout Troop 16 of Suffolk, Virginia, also participated in the ceremonies.

**5. BRANCH 230, ROSEVILLE, CALIF.**

A plaque recognizing his long and dedicated service to the FRA was presented to Shipmate Elmer Frank at his home. (L to R) Branch Secretary Jerry McColley, Branch Chaplain Harold Hayek, Elmer Frank, Branch President Don Goard and Mary Ann Frank.





7. BRANCH 98, SHREVEPORT, LA.

Shipmates attended the unveiling of the Women Veteran Monument on Veterans Day in Bossier City, Louisiana. (L to R) PRPSC Emmett Smith, Branch President Willie Hill, RPSC C. Ursula Gruetznier and Bill Davis.

8. BRANCH 29, BREMERTON, WASH.

Shipmate Larry Daley burned worn American flags during an official flag retirement ceremony that was held in Bremerton to honor Flag Day on June 14, 2020.



9. BRANCH & UNIT 382, NAMPA, IDAHO

FRA Branch President and RPNW Danny Hunt and LA FRA Unit President Rose Hall (wearing their covers) were presented with a donation check from the GFWC Woman's Century Club of Nampa on Nov. 23, 2020. Both were guest speakers at the Century Club luncheon.

10. BRANCH 14, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Branch President Marcia Cunningham helped decorate the Navy tree in a challenge for the branches on Nov. 21, 2020, at the War Memorial Center. (L to R) Aviation Boatswain's Mate Aircraft Handling Chief Select Joshua Waraczynski, Marcia Cunningham and Logistics Specialist Chief Select Phillip Balistreri. Navy won second place.

11. BRANCH 208, JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

Branch President Raymond Applewhite presented a certificate of Outstanding Achievement in the Americanism Essay Contest to Madison Templeton, who was the second place winner for the East Coast Region. She was presented a \$50 gift certificate.

12. BRANCH 161, KANSAS CITY, KAN.

The Mo-Kan Branch holds their Annual Gift Wrap each year. Several Shipmates gather each year to wrap and deliver Christmas gifts to several group homes in the area. This year was different because masks were worn and social distancing was practiced during the wrapping sessions.

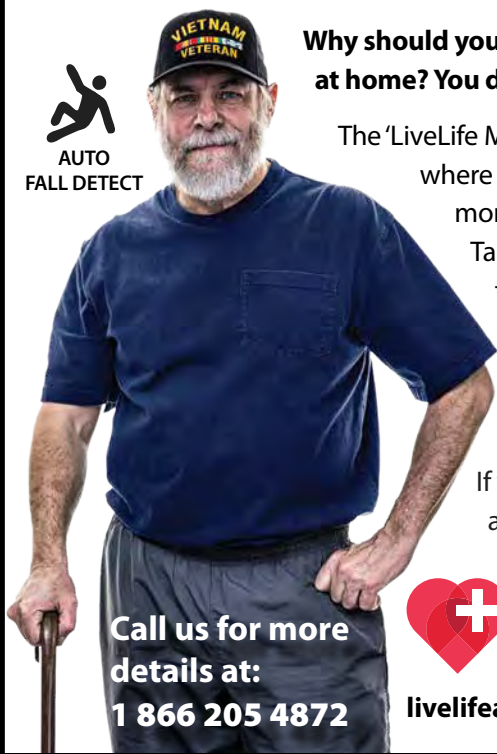
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Submit a photo by email as a high-quality attachment in jpeg format to FRAtoday@fra.org. Please include a brief description and include the names of those pictured.

In Memoriam

Name	Rating	Branch						
Abraham, Richard	PNC, USN	93	Dill, Walter H.	CWO4, USN	22	Herbein, John G.	CAPT, USN	MAL
Akkerman, Daryl J.	NCC, USN	29	Dimick, Robert	LCDR, USN	MAL	Hester, Robert Z.	ENC(SS), USN	259
Arflack, James D.	AMCS, USN	261	Downs, Lee B.	NC1, USN	11	Hindel, James	AT1, USN	269
						Hines, Kenneth F.	LCDR, USN	90
Ballard, Charles D.	STG1, USN	MAL	Eason, Franklin D.	RMCS, USN	187	Howard, John A.	EMCS, USN	20
Barnett, Robert R.	USN	29	England, Albert A.	GYSGT, USMC	MAL	Hugo, Demetrio S.	MS2, USN	127
Bassi, Charles L.	PHCM, USN	MAL	Estes, Fletcher L.	PO1, USN	MAL	Humphrey, Billy L.	SCPO, USN	MAL
Bennet Billy	MMC, USN	89				Husby, Paul W.	ETC, USNR	276
Bentien Dorothy E.	YNC, USN	MAL	Feddersen, Vernon C.	AMSC, USN	MAL			
Bishop, Robert D.	CMDCM(SW), USN	162	Feltz, Roger H.	OMC, USN	MAL	Ireland, Francis D.	AQC, USN	261
Bisson, Melvin L.	AMS1, USN	136	Fernandez, Emmanuel S.	SKCS, USN	MAL	Jenkins, Gordon K.	ADCS, USN	289
Bostedt, Gerald D.	MRCM, USN	14	Fretwell, Richard A.	GMTCS, USN	MAL	Jones, John M.	CTICS, USN	301
Bowab, George P.	MMC, USN	72	Frost, Sergio M.	EMCM(SS), USN	289			
Brantley, Charles T.	MRC, USN	194	Fry, Charles F.	PNCM, USN	115			
Broderick, Michael J.	PS1, USCG	MAL	Ganey, Walter F.	CWO4, USN	166	Keen, Huey E.	PNC, USN	MAL
Buettner, Clayton L.	GMGC, USN	14	Gardner, Billy J.	SM1, USN	MAL	Kessler, Theodore J.	TDC, USN	MAL
Butler, Raymond L.	RMC, USN	289	Goettlicher, Gary R.	ADRC, USN	273	PNP Kilgore, Mark A.	RPCM(SW), USN	22
			Gunther, William C.	YNC(SS), USN	60	King, William B.	SCPO, USN	34
Casey, Robert	QMCM, USN	MAL				Kovach, Stephen K.	SCPO, USN	MAL
Comeau, George	CWO3, USN	40	Hallowell, Richard C.	OSC, USN	MAL	Kraemer, Orval L.	BTC, USN	377
Courtney, Thomas D.	IC3, USN	MAL	Hardy, Edward J.	SKCM, USN	MAL	Kyser, Larry O.	ABE3, USN	22
Covey, Paul A.	RMC, USN	MAL	Harriger, Robert J.	SKC/CPO, USN	MAL			
			Hayes, Robert E.	LNC, USN	73	Lauraitis, Thomas	AWC, USN	MAL
Daniel, Charles W.	CS1, USN	MAL	Hedren, Carl L.	SHC, USN	302	Leaf, Carl S.	ASCS, USN	104
Davis, Roy O.	ET1, USN	MAL	Hennessey, Michael J.	PO1, USA	MAL	Lopeman, Michael	ICC(SS), USN	20

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TAPS

Maddox, Jackie K.	AWC, USN	86	Pagnotta, Austin M.	DCCM, USCGR	38	Taguba, Rustico C.	DTC, USN	MAL
Marquardt, Robert	ACC, USN	MAL	Patterson, Perry S.	CDR, USN	MAL	Taylor, Levon M.	HM3, USN	161
Martin, Daniel L.	BTCS(SW), USN	MAL	Payne, Gordon E.	EN1, USN	MAL	Thompson, Allen L.	YNC, USN	161
Martin, Charles E.	ETCM(SS), USN	MAL	Peck, David T.	MTC, USN	37	Thorp, Albert W.	MMCS(SW), USN	298
Martinez, Esperison	CMSGT, USN	24	Pedroni, John J.	TMC(SS), USN	60	Tiernay, Terry W.	CDR, USN	274
May, Brian	FTC, USNR	MAL	Pester, Fred J.	ENC, USN	136	Tregoning, John H.	ENCS (SS), USN	53
McConnell, James T.	LT, USN	118	Phelps, George R.	PHCS, USN	MAL	Troutman, Thomas A.	CPO(UTC), USN	MAL
McDonough, William J.	AWCS, USN	156	Pietrowski, Joseph A.	MMCS, USN	MAL	Tucker, David S.	SA, USNR	290
McMillen, Kenneth V.	LCDR, USN	MAL	Pinson, Harold E.	PN1, USN	382			
Meisner, Maurice E.	AD3, USN	263	Pugh, Larry J.	BM1, USN	186	Valere, Alexander F.	CSCS, USN	01
Melson, Robert A.	PRPNC, USNR	130				Vertrees, Gerald J.	AFCM, USN	90
Miles, Lavor J.	MMC, USN	MAL	Rauch, Carl C.	HM1, USN	57			
Minas, Jose V.	SD1, USN	84	Risher, Barth A.	HMC, USN	MAL	Wappler, John F.	CTM1, USN	22
Moffett, Carl L.	LT, USN	24				White, Edward R.	YNCM(SS), USN	291
			Sansone, Joseph	RADM(SC), USN	MAL	Whitt, Gerald E.	ATC, USN	89
Nagle, John J.	A01, USN	MAL	Schaub, Leroy R.	AEC, USN	91	Whitten, James	CPO, USN	70
Neal, Paul J.	FTGC, USN	MAL	Schneider, Joseph J.	PN3, USN	214	Wilson, Thomas	RMC, USN	40
Nielsen, Burdette G.	PO2, USN	364	Selleck, Maynard L.	EMCM, USN	290	Wolohan, Michael P.	AK1(AW), USN	67
Null, Christopher	OMC, USN	290	Senior, Robert T.	HMC(SW), USN	01	Woods, Ernest C.	END3(SS), USN	275
			Shuler, Gary R.	QM1, USN	106	Worth, Richard W.	UTC, USN	307
O'Rawe, John	MMCS(SS), USN	MAL	Stithem, Charles K.	BMCM, USN	29			
Odum, Gregg V.	ADCS, USN	289	Sullivan, Gerald W.	EMC, USN	185	Zebratski, John J.	CWO2, USN	MAL
Olsen, George E.	GYSGT, USMC	136	Sutton, John N.	CWO, USN	60	Zuber, Robert A.	EMC, USN	115
			Sutton, William H.	STC, 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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1879	54	1889-S	259
1879-O	109	1890	49
1880	54	1890-O	89
1880-O	99	1890-S	89
1881	55	1891	79
1881-O	53	1891-O	175
1882	55	1891-S	95
1882-O	53	1896	49
1883	55	1897	49
1883-O	49	1897-S	95
1884	49	1898	49
1884-O	49	1900	49
1885	49	1900-S	289
1885-O	49	1902	95
1886	49	1903	89
1886-S	325	1904	129
1887	49	1921-D	69
1887-O	85	1921-S	65

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1881-S	69	1900-O	69
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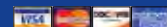
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Contact: Curtis Leary

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February 2021

A Message from the Southeast Regional President



RPSE Gale
Nathan

Happy Valentine's Day!
It is truly an honor to serve a second term as the LA FRA regional president for the Southeast Region. The Southeast Region does their best to perform charitable work for military service members, their families, the community and our America veterans. COVID-19 has really put a restriction on what we can do, but we are managing to deal with the circumstances.

During the holidays, units participated in holiday parades, prepared food baskets for the needy, helped fill shoe boxes with gifts for Operation Christmas Child, wrote Christmas cards for our military members overseas and were very involved with Toys for Tots. One of our units did a drive-by Toys for Tots campaign, which benefited children on Christmas. We also sent care packages filled with goodies and coupons for the families to use on base.

Each year, our units also work with their branches and attend veteran events. One of the things we do is place flags or wreaths at the graves of our veterans.

Our region also has various fundraising events that include, but are not limited to, yard sales, bake sales, car washes, auctions and 50/50 raffles.

To help increase the number of our members, we advertise, make telephone calls and are always sure to have membership applications in our possession. We could not make this happen without all our units.

The 12 units in our region are:

- Unit 22 - Pensacola, Florida
- Unit 91 - Jacksonville, Florida
- Unit 102 - St. Petersburg, Florida
- Unit 126 - W. Jacksonville, Florida
- Unit 183 - Interlachen, Florida
- Unit 194 - Knoxville, Tennessee
- Unit 210 - Milton, Florida
- Unit 269 - Goose Creek, South Carolina
- Unit 290 - Atlantic Beach, Florida
- Unit 291 - New Port Richey, Florida
- Unit 294 - Crossville, Tennessee
- Unit 346 - Panama City Beach, Florida



(L) RPSE Gale Nathan and (R) FRA PRPSE Laurie Bailey purchasing toys.



Unit 269's (L) Benita Kinlaw and (R) RPSE Gale Nathan in the Goose Creek, South Carolina, Christmas parade.



Members of Goose Creek, South Carolina, Unit 269 collected toys for the Marine Toys for Tots Program. (L to R) Linda Cox, John Tharp, Marilyn Tharp, RPSE Gale Nathan, PRPSE Gail Bolz, a Marine volunteer, Harry Nettles, FRA PRPSE Laurie Bailey, Lee Nettles, Trish Chilton and Theresa Milligan.

The Southeast Regional Convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, this year at the Ramada by Wyndham Jacksonville Hotel and Conference Center from Aug. 23 to 27.

The Southeast Region's members are proud to serve our auxiliary and country in any way that we can. **FRA**

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Gale Nathan

Gale is the LA FRA president of the Southeast Region.

Managing Your Investments During Difficult Times



Carl M. Trevisan, CFP®



Stephen M. Bearce

In recent times, a pandemic, economic difficulties, political unrest and natural disasters have all presented their respective challenges. Besides grappling with the near-term effects of these situations, investors may be wondering what effect these events could have on their investments. It's helpful for investors to focus on three fundamental actions that could help them work toward meeting their investment goals — know yourself, build a plan and keep an eye on the long term.

Know Yourself

When stocks drop by 20% or more, some investors might ignore the drop, others might feel the urge to sell, while still others might see it as a good time to buy. This range of reactions illustrates different levels of risk tolerance, or how sensitive investors are to market volatility. Risk tolerance varies from one investor to another, and no level of tolerance is considered the “right” level — there's only the right risk tolerance for each investor. Talking with financial advisors or completing online questionnaires can help investors determine their risk tolerance.

While understanding your risk tolerance is essential, it should not be considered in isolation. Risk tolerance, goals and time horizon all play a role in setting an investment plan.

Investing more aggressively may yield more rewards, but the length of time available for investing also plays a part. A longer time horizon could give investors the potential for compound growth. And setting specific goals can help to determine how much an investor should accumulate to support their goals.

Build a Plan

Dwight D. Eisenhower may have said it best — “Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.” Even though a plan may need to be modified to adapt to changes, the very process of setting a plan will help investors to discover and focus on their

most important investment goals.

For a plan to be useful, it's important for investors to clearly detail which goals they are trying to achieve. Some of an investor's goals will be shorter term, such as building a rainy day fund. Intermediate-term goals might include buying a house or paying for a child's education. Longer-term goals might include planning for retirement and potentially leaving a legacy for charities or family. Investors' assets can then be matched to those various goals. For example, an investor might own short-term bonds to meet a near-term expense, and a mixture of stocks and longer-term bonds to meet needs that are further in the future. The investor's risk tolerance will help determine the ratio of more volatile assets, such as stocks, to less volatile assets such as bonds.

Keep an Eye on the Long Term

Once a plan is in place, it's important to maintain it over the long term. This process includes regularly rebalancing the portfolio if allocations move too far away from targets, a task that in many cases can be automated. Maintenance also includes revisiting plans as investor goals or situations change. A plan is meant to be a living document.

While market drops can be troublesome, unpredictable economic events have presented challenges in the past. With resilience and creativity, America's businesses and households have managed to overcome them. While there are no guarantees that past performance will repeat itself, history has shown us that investors who reach their goals are often those who stick to their investment plans and take a long-term view of the markets. **FRA**

This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Carl M. Trevisan, Managing Director-Investments and Stephen M. Bearce, First Vice President-Investments in Alexandria, Virginia at 800-247-8602.
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A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S SAILORS

Defending Freedom Forever

America's Sailors have sacrificed throughout our nation's history protecting freedom, liberty, and justice for all. Generation after generation of men and women have willingly placed country before self to ensure our treasured rights and defend our cherished nation. A legendary military leader once stated, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men."

Now, America Remembers proudly honors America's Armed Forces in exclusive editions limited to 500 Thompsons per service branch. To honor the service of the American Sailor, America Remembers presents the Tribute to America's Sailors Thompson, issued on a working semi-automatic Thompson submachine gun in caliber .45 ACP. Craftsmen commissioned specifically by America Remembers decorate each working Thompson in sparkling 24-karat gold and nickel. Don't miss the opportunity to own a genuine Thompson built in the United States by the gunsmiths of the Auto-Ordnance Corporation, the company founded by Brigadier General John T. Thompson himself. (See AmericaRemembers.com for details on Tributes to other service branches.)

Nothing else looked like the Thompson. Nothing else sounded like it. And Nothing ended a Firefight faster.

The Thompson was used by Navy personnel during World War II, and other military operations throughout U.S. history. It was also relied on extensively by other American branches of the Armed Forces. Together, the Thompson and the Armed Forces made history. The powerful Thompson is a true American icon with decades of distinguished service to the United States and we've chosen this classic American-made firearm for this Tribute, which was born of the same ingenuity and perseverance that makes our country great.

Once in a great while, a single firearm can change the face of war.

Once called, "**The deadliest weapon pound for pound, ever devised by man**", the Thompson was the perfect weapon for the United States Armed Forces. The Thompson provided a huge advantage and helped turn the tide of countless firefights. To this day, the Thompson remains one of the most widely recognized and respected firearms in our nation's history and throughout the world.

The heart of a strong military is in its people. Our country has become the greatest in the world because of the men and women who raise their right hands and swear an oath to protect and defend our freedoms at all costs. These men and women who serve honorably around the world are America's front line of defense. We must never forget the sacrifices they make for our freedom. Don't miss your opportunity to own this shining salute to those who served in the defense of freedom.



Model: Thompson Semi-Automatic Submachine Gun 1927 A-1 **Barrel Length:** 16 1/2" **Caliber:** .45 ACP

Honor the American Sailor With This Exclusive Offer – Only 500 Available

Only 500 Tributes will be issued in this exclusive limited edition. Whether you served yourself, or want to honor someone special who did, now is your opportunity to remember the courageous American Sailors who have protected America's freedom. We will arrange delivery of your working semi-automatic Thompson through the licensed firearms dealer of your choice. If you are not completely satisfied, you may return your Tribute to us in original, unfired condition for a complete and courteous refund. (Not available in CA, CT, or NY).

▼ *The Tribute to America's Sailors Thompson honors those who patrol and protect America on the world's vast oceans and open seas. On the left side, you'll find a group of sailors surrounded by an oval rope frame beneath a banner that reads, "Saluting America's Sailors." Most sailors will agree that the camaraderie and cooperation of a ship's crew is the key to their strength. A quartet of Korean War-era jet fighters patrolling in formation over the Pacific is featured along with an outline of the USA, framing the words, "Freedom Forever". The banner below reads, "Country Before Self." These remind us of the daily sacrifices made by sailors on behalf of all Americans. (Sailor Tribute shown above. See AmericaRemembers.com for details on Tributes to other service branches.)*



▲ *The right side features an American Sailor in his familiar white uniform. Beside him is the intimidating image of an American destroyer. Also featured is our stylized logo to the spirit of the American Sailor which features a globe of the earth in the center, framed with a sailor cap, anchor, and compass. Surrounding the logo, banners read, "Defending Freedom Around the World." Next is the image of an impressive WWII-era aircraft carrier. Banners on the right side read, "American Freedom Tribute®" and "Freedom Is Never Free".*

The Tribute to America's Sailors Thompson is issued by America Remembers, a private, non-governmental organization. Nothing in the decoration added to the basic firearm (including the informational content therein) is used as a trademark. Neither the United States Navy nor any other component of the Department of Defense has supplied, approved, endorsed, or authorized this product or any portion thereof.

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I wish to reserve ___ of the "**Tribute to America's Sailors**", a working Thompson semi-automatic submachine gun, at the current issue price of \$2,995*. My deposit of \$195 per Tribute is enclosed. I wish to pay the balance at \$100 per month, no interest or carrying charges. Certificate of Authenticity included. Thirty-day return privilege.

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watches is equal to
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