

1 FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

2 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION

3  
4  
5 JOINT OPENING CEREMONIES

6 90th FRA and 85th LA FRA NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

7  
8 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

9 0900 HOURS

10  
11 Delta Hotels Baltimore

12 245 Shawan Road

13 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

14  
15  
16 Convention Committee:

17 ARTHUR L. CALIGUIRAN, Chairman

18 CRISTINA E. DIXON, Co-Chair

19  
20 Reported by:

21 Kelly E. Shaw, Notary Public

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (0940)

3 CHAIRMAN: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, you  
4 will invite the shipmates, ladies, and guests to  
5 enter the ballroom and close the doors.

6 MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate, all the  
7 shipmates are aboard and [inaudible].

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Shipmate  
9 Master-at-Arms.

10 Shipmates, Auxiliary members, and  
11 distinguished guests, I am Shipmate Arthur L.  
12 Caliguiran, Washington, D.C. Branch 004, Chairman of  
13 the FRA's 90th National Convention. On my left is  
14 Lady Cristina E. Dixon. She's the Chairman of the  
15 85th National Convention. We are pleased to welcome  
16 all of you to the Joint Opening Ceremonies of the LA  
17 FRA and FRA National Conventions.

18 Shipmate Master-at-Arms, you will escort  
19 the keynote speaker, Mr. Kenneth Canestrini, Acting  
20 Deputy Director for Health Plans for TRICARE Health  
21 Plans.

1 (Three raps of the gavel.)

2 (Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford  
3 is escorted up the center aisle to the rostrum.)

4 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN: Madam Sergeant-at-Arms and  
6 Marshal, you will escort the National President LA  
7 FRA, Helen A. Courneya, to the rostrum.

8 (LA FRA President Helen Courneya is  
9 escorted up the center aisle to the rostrum.)

10 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

11 CHAIRMAN: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, you  
12 will escort the keynote speaker, Mr. Kenneth  
13 Canestrini, Acting Deputy Director for Health Plans  
14 for TRICARE Health Plans.

15 (Kenneth Canestrini is escorted up the  
16 center aisle to the rostrum.)

17 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

18 CHAIRMAN: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, you  
19 will escort the National President of the Fleet  
20 Reserve Association, Donald E. Larson, to the  
21 rostrum.

1 (FRA President Donald Larson is escorted  
2 up the center aisle to the rostrum.)

3 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

4 CHAIRMAN: I now have the honor to present  
5 the Military District of Washington Sea Services  
6 Honor Guard.

7 Color Guard! Present the colors.

8 (Colors are presented.)

9 CHAIRMAN: Hand Salute. Ready, Two.

10 Shipmate National Chaplain, you will  
11 invoke the blessing of God.

12 NCHAP PUGH: "Almighty God, the creator of  
13 all things, we humbly beseech Thee to accept our  
14 devotions. Have mercy on the souls of our departed  
15 shipmates. Guide us in all our undertakings that we  
16 may truly please Thee. Amen."

17 SHIPMATES: Amen.

18 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate Chairman, the Bible  
19 is open.

20 CHAIRMAN: I will now call on Lady Cindy  
21 Jones to lead us in the singing of the National



1 Anthem.

2 (National Anthem is sung.)

3 CHAIRMAN: Please recite with me the  
4 Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

5 ALL: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
6 the United States of America and to the republic for  
7 which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible,  
8 with liberty and justice for all."

9 CHAIRMAN: The Color Guard will post the  
10 colors.

11 (Colors are posted.)

12 (One rap of the gavel.)

13 CHAIRMAN: Shipmates, you will recite with  
14 me the Preamble to the Constitution of the Fleet  
15 Reserve Association.

16 (Three raps of the gavel.)

17 SHIPMATES: "With reverence for God and  
18 Country and being ever mindful of the glorious  
19 traditions of the United States Navy, Marine Corps,  
20 and Coast Guard; our duty to uphold and defend the  
21 Constitution of the United States of America; our

1 responsibility to aid in maintaining adequate  
2 defense for our beloved country; our desire to  
3 assist in obtaining the best type of personnel for  
4 our sea services; our interest in the welfare of  
5 those who served and are now serving; our devotion  
6 to our shipmates, in good fortune or distress; our  
7 reverence for the memory of our departed shipmates;  
8 we associate ourselves together and declare this to  
9 be the Preamble to the Constitution of the Fleet  
10 Reserve Association."

11 CHAIRWOMAN: Shipmates, please take your  
12 seats.

13 Auxiliary members, please rise. You will  
14 recite with me the Preamble to the Constitution of  
15 the LA FRA.

16 AUXILIARY MEMBERS: "Having a keen sense  
17 of responsibility, being true Americans, and bearing  
18 in mind the Preamble of the Fleet Reserve  
19 Association, we, the members of the Ladies Auxiliary  
20 of the Fleet Reserve Association, do band together  
21 to aid and promote in all matters pertaining to

1 welfare, social, and patriotic work for the benefit  
2 of the Fleet Reserve Association, its members, and  
3 their families. Thus we do associate and declare  
4 these principles to be the foundations and the  
5 Preamble to the Constitution of the Ladies Auxiliary  
6 of the Fleet Reserve Association."

7 CHAIRWOMAN: Auxiliary members, take your  
8 seats.

9 CHAIRMAN: I will now introduce our  
10 distinguished guests:

11 Command Master Chief Jeff Patton, U.S.  
12 Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Operations;  
13 Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, Lieutenant  
14 Governor of Maryland; Joseph L. Barnes, President of  
15 the FRA Education Foundation, National Executive  
16 Director Emeritus of the FRA; Helen Courneya,  
17 National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the  
18 FRA; and Donald E. Larson, National President of the  
19 Fleet Reserve Association.

20 Now I would like to introduce our first  
21 speaker, Maryland Lieutenant Governor --

1                   NED SNEE: Our keynote speaker that was in  
2 your program, Vice Admiral Bono, could not make it  
3 this morning. So we have an outstanding -- I met  
4 him last week in dealings with TRICARE. His name is  
5 Colonel Kenneth Canestrini, United States Army,  
6 Retired.

7                   Mr. Canestrini is the Acting Deputy  
8 Director for the Health Plans at the Defense Health  
9 Agency, TRICARE Health Plan, in Falls Church,  
10 Virginia. He has a staff of 300 in multiple  
11 locations throughout the United States, Germany,  
12 Okinawa, and Japan. He is responsible for  
13 programmatic and operational matters pertaining to  
14 the worldwide management of TRICARE programs, as  
15 well as the DHA's purchased care program for health  
16 care services that cover over 9.4 million  
17 beneficiaries.

18                  Mr. Canestrini served on active duty with  
19 the United States Army for 33 years. During his six  
20 years of enlisted service, he served in the Infantry  
21 and Airborne divisions at Fort Bragg, in Italy, and

1 in the Surgeon General's office. He used the G.I.  
2 Bill while attending McNeese State University, and  
3 later entered ROTC in 1980. Upon completion of his  
4 ROTC training as a Distinguished Military Grad, he  
5 served in the Louisiana National Guard.

6           Upon receiving his undergraduate business  
7 administration degree, he reentered active duty as a  
8 Medical Service Corps officer in 1983. He served in  
9 Korea, at Fort Carson, Fort Hood, Tripler Army  
10 Hospital in Hawai'i, and was the Chief of Staff at  
11 Womack Army Medical Center of Fort Bragg. He has  
12 also served as the Commander of the DeWitt Health  
13 Care Network at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and in the  
14 Office of the Army Surgeon General.

15           Upon his retirement in 2010 from the Army,  
16 he served as the Army civilian on the Army Surgeon  
17 General's staff for over five years, as Chief of  
18 TRICARE Operations, and ultimately as Deputy for  
19 Health Care Operations with the Defense Health  
20 Agency in Falls Church.

21           Shipmates and Auxiliary members, our guest

1 speaker is a champion for our health care benefits  
2 beyond. He's served as an enlisted soldier, as an  
3 Army sergeant, and holds the toughest job both at  
4 DHA and the Department of Defense, meshing, holding,  
5 and stabilizing our greatest benefit in the health  
6 care network that is of TRICARE itself. Please join  
7 me in a warm welcome to our champion to health care,  
8 a combat veteran and a true caregiver, Mr. Ken  
9 Canestrini.

10 (APPLAUSE.)

11 MR. CANESTRINI: Good morning, Lieutenant  
12 Governor, senior leaders, the Auxiliary,  
13 distinguished guests. First off, thank you for the  
14 warm welcome. As I was watching the ceremony and  
15 participating -- I got up at 0530 because I live in  
16 Southern, you know, south of D.C. and Virginia,  
17 wanted to make sure the travel time gets up here.  
18 So I got here ample time early, but of course I was  
19 in the wrong place and sitting down and was not at  
20 my appointed duty station, so I kind of fouled up  
21 the introductions; I apologize for that.

1                   But I do think one of the intros that I  
2                   wanted to kinda hit home with, my mom and dad  
3                   were -- you know, he was a sergeant in United States  
4                   Army, served 26 years, and retired as an E-7. So  
5                   I've kinda, since I was one year old, always been  
6                   associated with the military system. I have a great  
7                   appreciation for the enlisted service and the  
8                   demands that it takes on a soldier and their family.  
9                   And I first off thank you for all that you do to  
10                  help protect the benefits of those well-earned --  
11                  can you hear me? -- those well-earned benefits.

12                 So today I do represent Admiral Bono,  
13                 and she is a three-star, Navy, running the Defense  
14                 Health Agency. And I want to say right up front for  
15                 her, she does a lot of things. One of them is the  
16                 TRICARE program. We have research/develop and we  
17                 have a lot of other activities, but it's all about  
18                 how does the Defense Health Agency enable the  
19                 services to execute their mission and also support  
20                 the benefit. And front and center in everything  
21                 that she talks to her staff about and to me about is

1 always making sure that it's patient centric. How  
2 does the patient get affected, how do we make it  
3 better for the patient.

4 So I just want to let you all know that  
5 she is a very strong advocate. We have monthly  
6 DSO/MSO/military group meetings up at the Defense  
7 Health Agency, and your organization participates  
8 routinely. And I think they can tell you, without a  
9 doubt, she's always there to hear from the groups to  
10 understand, communicate with them, to get feedback  
11 from them, and to have an adult discussion and to  
12 make sure that their voices are heard.

13 So I was kind of thinking we were going to  
14 have some slides, but that's okay. We don't have  
15 slides. But we're going to kind of walk through it  
16 a little bit, and hopefully this will resonate.  
17 Most of what I tell you, hopefully, is somewhat old,  
18 as far as news goes.

19 Can you hear me better now?

20 (CLAPPING.)

21 MR. CANESTRINI: All right, we'll put on



1 the Army voice here. That's okay. We can do that.

2 So, I looked at your website before I came  
3 up, and a lot of the information is very well posted  
4 when things go on. I think the group is doing a  
5 good job in sharing the information.

6 So first let's talk a little bit about  
7 TRICARE and the Health Plan. It's a big program.  
8 It's your health benefit. When you think about the  
9 program, how much goes on in the program in -- I'll  
10 give you a week -- a week in the TRICARE program,  
11 real quick, just so you can think about it:  
12 9.4 million beneficiaries, about almost 300 million  
13 claims a week go across the nation and overseas. We  
14 spend about \$18 billion a year for the benefit to  
15 take care of us and purchase that care. And we have  
16 about 500,000 providers around the nation to support  
17 getting care inside and outside the network.

18 So, one of the biggest changes you see  
19 coming up -- we have two things coming for 1 January  
20 of 2018. And it's taking the current TRICARE  
21 contract that was awarded, called TRICARE T17, 2017,

1 and we will go to two regions. So you're going to  
2 have Humana as a contractor in the East, and you're  
3 going to have Health Net Federal Services in the  
4 West. And it's kind of geographically broken up; if  
5 you look at the map, kind of like on the Mississippi  
6 River, running down it, and with most of Texas and  
7 Oklahoma in the East.

8 The good news on that is what does that do  
9 for a beneficiary population? It reduces the number  
10 of contractors providing the program. You get down  
11 to two. And for the active-duty family members who  
12 do a lot of movement, PCSs and changes, it reduces  
13 changing the contractor that is supporting them.

14 So that's the first thing to think about  
15 is we'll have that big change. For most of the  
16 population, I don't think there will be much  
17 difference. They may get a little logo difference  
18 that says it's Health Net instead of United Health  
19 or something like that. But overall, I think we'll  
20 be okay. The two contractors are working very hard  
21 and looking at their new space and coordinating with

1 providers out there so that come 1 January, they'll  
2 be ready to start to support delivering care.

3 The other thing that we have that you  
4 should be well aware of, which is probably the  
5 biggest change in the TRICARE benefit since probably  
6 1967 or so, is that we're going to go to something  
7 called TRICARE Select that will replace TRICARE  
8 Standard and TRICARE Extra. So I want to make  
9 sure -- most of you all have heard about that; how  
10 about a hand?

11 (Some members raise hands.)

12 MR. CANESTRINI: A few? Okay. It's very  
13 important. This is the biggie that I think I would  
14 want to make sure that we have a takeaway here. It  
15 is starting on 1 January. We are going to rename  
16 the program, and Standard and Extra will go away and  
17 we are going to have TRICARE Select.

18 So what does that mean? You've got a  
19 nomenclature change? It's a little bit more than  
20 that. It's going to mean that we're going to go to  
21 an annual period of how the program is run. Instead

1 of being on a fiscal year, a 1 October kind of a  
2 thing, we're going to go to a calendar year. So  
3 that's why it starts on 1 January.

4 And in the future, you'll have to enroll  
5 in one of the programs. You're going to have to  
6 make a conscious decision that "I want to be in  
7 TRICARE Prime" -- no changes to TRICARE Prime, it  
8 stays the same as it is today, which is a health  
9 maintenance organization type activity -- or you're  
10 going to go into TRICARE Select.

11 So when we make the conversion, everybody  
12 who's TRICARE Standard today, they will be  
13 automatically rolled over, and then as it runs down  
14 every year, we'll have an open enrollment season.  
15 And if you do nothing, you will be automatically  
16 forwarded into the plan that you're currently in.

17 So again, if you do nothing, you'll be  
18 automatically rolled over. You'll have to make a  
19 conscious decision to make a change, and then if you  
20 want to go into Prime or another program, then  
21 you'll have to change your enrollment.

1                   So that's kind of the -- so what else have  
2   I got to tell you about the program? You're sitting  
3   here going, "Well, all I've got is a nomenclature  
4   change." So TRICARE Select, the new contractors  
5   have a responsibility to increase their networks so  
6   that 85 percent of those who are in the United  
7   States that are in the TRICARE Select program have  
8   access to a network, to the preferred provider  
9   organization. So what that means is they have to  
10  expand their networks out, looking where people  
11  live, so at least that 85 percent of the population  
12  under TRICARE Select can at least have access into a  
13  network where the benefit is one that you get a  
14  discount and you have probably a higher increased  
15  rate of access because the network is built to  
16  provide services for the TRICARE beneficiaries.

17                  So what else does this change mean? So,  
18  the changes, three years from now -- we're going to  
19  go through 2018, we're going to make the change, and  
20  we're going to live through a year of education and  
21  a grace period, where we spend a lot of time and

1 energy communicating and trying to educate the  
2 population about the different changes, how does it  
3 affect me; we'll go through the year, we'll go to a  
4 new enrollment season in the fall -- every fall  
5 we'll have an enrollment season; it'll be similar to  
6 the federal health employee enrollment season -- the  
7 dates will line up, so we'll match that. This will  
8 be a new change for people.

9           The real change is going to be this: In  
10 about 2021, three years after we run the pilot and  
11 we've got it going, the new retirees that come down  
12 the road and they retire, they have to make that  
13 decision to enroll into Select or get into Prime.

14           Today, when you all retired and you went  
15 about into civ sector, you walked out the door, and  
16 as soon as you retired, you were covered by the  
17 TRICARE benefit. No matter what happened. You  
18 didn't do anything. You didn't enroll, right? You  
19 were just out there. But you had the TRICARE  
20 program behind you. This is going to be the  
21 different piece. In about three years, you're going

1 to have to make sure you enroll. Because if you  
2 don't properly enroll and line up with one of the  
3 programs, then you will only have access to the  
4 direct care system.

5 So that's the big change that will be  
6 different. So that's why we're spending a lot of  
7 time on the education piece, making sure people  
8 understand. We'll spend a lot of time and energy  
9 when soldiers and sailors and airmen are exiting the  
10 service and they retire, we'll go through that  
11 process to make sure they understand you need to  
12 make an option, you need to sign up for what program  
13 meets your needs.

14 And then, I will tell you straight up,  
15 it's in the public record, the other part of that  
16 enrollment is that in 2021, three years after we've  
17 stood it up and run the program, there will be an  
18 enrollment fee associated with TRICARE Select.  
19 There will be an enrollment fee associated with  
20 TRICARE Select.

21 So, today under TRICARE Standard and

1 Extra, you don't have an enrollment fee. If you  
2 don't use the program and you go healthy all year  
3 long, you don't use anything, you're okay, right?  
4 But in the future, there will be an enrollment fee,  
5 an annual enrollment fee associated with the  
6 program. And then you'll have the current  
7 deductibles and cost shares that you have today.

8           The other thing that's an enhanced benefit  
9 for Prime is, per the National Defense Authorization  
10 Act, all of the military treatment facilities have a  
11 requirement to come up with urgent care and primary  
12 care access initiatives to meet the demand, and also  
13 to have local network providers available if they  
14 have hours of operation that they're not available,  
15 so that people can go to urgent care. We're  
16 expanding telehealth as an initiative.

17           And the other that's going on with the  
18 TRICARE program, and this is a nationwide issue, is  
19 determining how we can be provide more value-based  
20 purchasing, value-based care. And that's just  
21 basically a lot of work, like Medicare and CMS are



1     doing, to see how we can -- rather than just pay  
2     claims, provide access, how can we work with  
3     provider networks to get a better value for the  
4     government, better value for the patient on the  
5     quality and care of the outcomes that are being  
6     measured.

7             The last thing that I wanted to kind of  
8     walk through a little bit is the communication  
9     piece. Chris is here, and he's got these little  
10    cards -- 'Take Command of Your Health.' We've got a  
11    website there. Please take some of those, pass them  
12    around, use your own website, post them. And this  
13    is where we would ask that you as communicators to  
14    your membership to pound the boards with us about  
15    letting people know about the changes, letting them  
16    know that they need to take the time to go to the  
17    Internet here and read about the changes.

18            With medicine, especially with the TRICARE  
19    program and military medicine, a lot of times we  
20    don't pay attention until we need it. When we need  
21    it, then we're trying to figure out how to navigate

1 the system. Right? So, help me on that one.

2 That's my plea to you all is, "Hey, there's some  
3 information, we've got some big changes coming on 1  
4 October, something called TRICARE Select, where does  
5 that affect you?"

6 Now, for those of you that are over 65,  
7 the good news is there's no change.

8 (APPLAUSE.)

9 MR. CANESTRINI: So I need you to keep  
10 thinking that one. That's a good one, right? So  
11 there's no impact on the TRICARE For Life program  
12 and that benefit. As of today.

13 (LAUGHTER.)

14 MR. CANESTRINI: You know, Congress, every  
15 year, this is how it works, right? Every year,  
16 Congress gets together and they work through the  
17 National Defense Authorization Act. I'm talking to  
18 you about the Act that came out in December of last  
19 year. We had a lot of requirements in it to work  
20 through. Right now as I'm talking to you, the  
21 Senate just passed their version of the next Act.

1 Each one of those is a roundabout discussion about  
2 how much does healthcare cost? How much did the  
3 Department of Defense spend? How much can we  
4 afford? What are we getting for our money?

5 So anyway, that's the good news on TRICARE  
6 For Life. I think that's a very important one. My  
7 mom and dad, they both passed away in the last  
8 couple years, but as I was helping them through the  
9 process as retirees when they got to 65, I was a  
10 happy camper because it really relieved a lot of  
11 stress, right? And here's an enlisted E-7 living in  
12 a trailer in California, and we all know what E-7  
13 pay is, right, on retirement? It's not much. But  
14 we do know how important that health care benefit  
15 was, and especially the TRICARE For Life program,  
16 because basically everything was covered and they  
17 were able to move on through life as happy campers  
18 without the stress that some other people would do  
19 with a very expensive health care policy.

20 So, my whole objective here was, one, to  
21 come forward and say hello to you to make sure we're

1 communicating with you, we're connected with your  
2 leadership. But we wanted to kind of give you an  
3 opportunity -- obviously, 300 people, \$17 billion,  
4 TRICARE Overseas program, I got about 10 different  
5 plans, not here to ask each little claim question,  
6 but if you have some questions or concerns or  
7 thoughts for the TRICARE program, we wanted to kind  
8 of open it up for a question and answer here.

9 Do we have any takers here? I know we're  
10 behind schedule.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Why is Congress  
12 always taking more money from those who are supposed  
13 to get it for nothing? In other words, if over the  
14 years, you've been pennied and nickeled and dimed to  
15 death. It's about time somebody put their foot down  
16 and stopped it. If it wasn't for us -- and I speak  
17 for all servicemembers -- this country would not  
18 exist.

19 MR. CANESTRINI: Yes, sir. I am the  
20 recipient of, I'm a federal worker, I support DoD.  
21 Personally, I'm just as vested as you are in our

1 program and the benefit. And believe me, I share  
2 with you what you have earned.

3 Yes, ma'am?

4 UNIDENTIFIED AUXILIARY MEMBER: Is there a  
5 [inaudible] you can apply for TRICARE For Life?

6 MR. CANESTRINI: Basically what'll happen  
7 is, and most of you I think can attest to this,  
8 about six months before you turn 65, we do a good  
9 job of mailing things to you, correct? The packages  
10 start coming in, Medicare starts sending you things,  
11 the TRICARE program sends you things, right? And  
12 basically all you have to do is sign up for  
13 Medicare, right? Do that, one. Sign up for  
14 Medicare. And you need to sign up for Part B. Part  
15 A you've already covered, you paid for that. But  
16 Part B, every now and then, we'll have someone who  
17 doesn't sign up for Part B. And they'll be out  
18 there going, "Oh, I've got TRICARE, I'm good to go,  
19 I'm with the Army." You have to have Part B before  
20 the TRICARE program can pay any bills.

21 So, when you get your packet in, sign up

1 for Medicare Part B. Okay? You'll get your  
2 Medicare card. And the way it works is we have a  
3 data sharing agreement with the Medicare program.  
4 We tell them on a monthly basis who our over 65 are,  
5 who our TRICARE beneficiaries are, and when you file  
6 a claim and your doctor sees you under the Medicare  
7 program, they pay first, they go through the process  
8 of paying, and then there's a data sharing, and they  
9 look to pick you up, and then they automatically  
10 will send that bill over to the TRICARE program, and  
11 then we will be the second payer on the bill. And  
12 it's pretty automatic. So just sign up for the  
13 program.

14 Yes, ma'am?

15 UNIDENTIFIED AUXILIARY MEMBER: Will the  
16 fee schedule for TRICARE For Life be the same as the  
17 new TRICARE coming in?

18 MR. CANESTRINI: Well, first off, there  
19 are no fees associated with TRICARE For Life.

20 UNIDENTIFIED AUXILIARY MEMBER: I'm  
21 talking about the fee schedule in the medical part,

1     like us working in the medical/hospital/surgery  
2     center, is the fee schedule going to be the same  
3     like what they pay for TRICARE For Life, the new  
4     TRICARE coming in?

5                 MR. CANESTRINI: Yeah. Again, there will  
6     be no change to the TRICARE For Life component.  
7     It'll be the same process, the same reimbursement  
8     rates, et cetera, as Medicare sent. Yes, ma'am.

9                 Yes, sir?

10                UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: I have two things.  
11     Can you have TRICARE identify themselves on  
12     telephones? I get calls from all over, and with all  
13     the hacking going on and so forth, there's no  
14     identity. I get calls from Pennsylvania,  
15     Massachusetts, et cetera, et cetera. But it doesn't  
16     say Express Scripts, and I don't answer. That's one  
17     thing.

18                I use eye drops, a box about this small  
19     (indicating), three of them, they come in a box  
20     about two feet by two feet. Is there not some way  
21     you can reduce the size of those packages to save

1 money on the system?

2 MR. CANESTRINI: Well, I know you're  
3 talking about an Express Scripts mail order, right?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yeah.

5 MR. CANESTRINI: Yeah, we have the Express  
6 Scripts consultant out here. I'll talk to him on  
7 the way out.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: This is a question  
9 going forward after the program starts. My plan is  
10 to be retired like out of the country in the  
11 Philippines. And one question that was set to me  
12 [inaudible] last year is how it is very hard for  
13 them over there to receive medications and stuff  
14 from the States. They're being told that they can  
15 only get it if they go to the embassy's mailbox or  
16 if they have a military PO mailbox. For a lot of  
17 the people that I visited there, they're like two  
18 hours away from the embassy. So what is TRICARE  
19 looking at to solve that problem for those overseas  
20 people?

21 MR. CANESTRINI: Are you specific to the



1       Philippines?

2                   UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE:   I will be, yes.

3                   MR. CANESTRINI:   Okay.   So, one is I do  
4   know we have some limitations on where we can mail  
5   medications.   There has to be certain requirements  
6   met before we can mail a medication.   I'll take that  
7   one as a due-out and get back to you on what we've  
8   done with the program.

9                   NP FRA LARSON:   Sir, if I may, on behalf  
10   of the assembly for the 90th Fleet Reserve  
11   Association Convention, as a comrade, a fellow  
12   retiree, a veteran, a patriot, and American citizen,  
13   thank you so very much.   Thank you for your time.

14                   (NP FRA Larson presents a gift to Mr.  
15   Canestrini.)

16                   MR. CANESTRINI:   Thank you.   Glad to be  
17   here.

18                   CHAIRMAN:   I will now call on our  
19   Lieutenant Governor, Boyd K. Rutherford, to say some  
20   remarks.

21                   LT. GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD:   Good morning.

1 ALL: Good morning.

2 LT. GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I wanted to  
3 welcome you to Maryland and thank you for your  
4 service. It's a pleasure to be here to welcome you  
5 to our great state. To all the veterans of the sea  
6 services, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast  
7 Guard, and the families of the Fleet Reserve  
8 Association and members here today, let me begin by  
9 stating on behalf of Governor Hogan and our entire  
10 state, we thank you for your service and your  
11 sacrifice.

12 I would also like to recognize the seven  
13 branches of the Fleet Reserve Association here in  
14 Maryland: The Fort Washington Branch No. 4,  
15 Baltimore Branch 6, Annapolis Branch 24, Suitland  
16 Branch 67, Pax River Branch 93, Rockville Triangle  
17 182, and Branch 369 in Cumberland.

18 I am particularly proud to address you  
19 this morning because my dad was a proud member of  
20 the Coast Guard. He served on the Mighty Eastwind  
21 Icebreaker in the late forties after World War II,

1 escorting supply ships to bases in Greenland in the  
2 early years of the Cold War.

3 Marylanders are heirs to a proud military  
4 heritage. Our sons and daughters have fought and  
5 died in every battle since the Revolutionary War.  
6 Thousands have made the ultimate sacrifice, and  
7 countless more bear visible and invisible wounds  
8 that in many cases never heal. Our men and women in  
9 uniform put their lives on the line for our  
10 communities and our nation. And as elected leaders,  
11 our job is to fight on behalf of those who fought  
12 for us. So Governor Hogan and I are working  
13 tirelessly to do those things here in Maryland. And  
14 whether it's providing tax relief on pensions for  
15 military retirees, or expanding job opportunities  
16 for veterans, our state and our nation owes a  
17 tremendous debt to you.

18 So thank you again for the opportunity to  
19 welcome you this morning to our beautiful state.  
20 And for all of you here, I'm wishing you fair winds  
21 and following seas. And at this time I'd like to

1 present an official Governor's Citation honoring and  
2 commemorating your special event today. So I will  
3 present this to -- on behalf of the State of  
4 Maryland and Governor Hogan to the Fleet Reserve  
5 Association: Greetings, Be it known that on behalf  
6 of the citizens of this state in recognition of your  
7 well deserved welcome to honor and applaud the  
8 outstanding work and impressive leadership  
9 demonstrated by the Fleet Reserve Association since  
10 1924, the people of Maryland commend the Fleet  
11 Reserve Association delegates and all those  
12 attending the 2017 National Conference, and as our  
13 citizens, join in expressing our appreciation, great  
14 respect, and best wishes for continued success, we  
15 are pleased to confer upon you this Governor's  
16 Citation signed this date, Governor Lawrence J.  
17 Hogan, Jr., Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor, and  
18 Secretary of State.

19 NP FRA LARSON: Thank you.

20 (Three raps of the gavel.)

21 (Lt. Governor Rutherford is escorted back

1 down the aisle.)

2 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

3 (One rap of the gavel.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN: Shipmates, ladies, and  
5 distinguished guests, it is now my pleasure to  
6 introduce the following. First, I would like to  
7 introduce the eight Regional Vice Presidents who  
8 were elected and installed at the recent Regional  
9 Conventions. Please stand as I call your name, and  
10 hold your applause until all are introduced in each  
11 group:

12 Regional Vice Presidents: Northeast/New  
13 England Kay Black; East Coast Cristina Dixon;  
14 Southeast PNP Carolyn Whitaker; North Central  
15 Barbara White; Southwest Rachelle Caston; West Coast  
16 Brenda Horton.

17 (APPLAUSE.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN: Please be seated. Next I  
19 would like to introduce the Regional  
20 Presidents-Elect. Please stand and be recognized:

21 Regional Presidents-Elect: Northeast/New

1 England Bobbie Seidel; East Coast Shirley Vatter;  
2 Southeast Gail Bolz; North Central PNC Teresa  
3 Norton; South Central Pauline Wampler; Southwest  
4 Nadine Braudaway; West Coast Linda Telly.

5 (APPLAUSE.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN: Please take your seats. A  
7 large number of Past Regional Officers are here  
8 today. Will all Past National Officers of the LA  
9 FRA please stand and be recognized -- Past Regional  
10 Officers, please stand and be recognized.

11 (APPLAUSE.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN: I will now introduce the Past  
13 National Presidents of the LA FRA. Please stand as  
14 I call your name, and please hold your applause:

15 Carolyn Whitaker; Diane Hoover; Gini  
16 Larson; Helen Courneya; Cindy Rodham-Tuck; Gail  
17 Doloway; Sandra Robbins; Pat Boudreaux; Dorothy  
18 Maurath; D. Loretta Roberts; Doreen Huylebroeck.

19 (APPLAUSE.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN: Please be seated, and thank  
21 you for being here today. I will now introduce the

1 National Officers of the LA FRA:

2 National Chaplain Gale Nathan; National  
3 Parliamentarian PNP Cindy Rodham-Tuck; Regional  
4 President Northeast/New England Bobbie Seidel; East  
5 Coast Shirley Vatter; Southeast Veralynn Thomas;  
6 North Central PNC Teresa Norton; Southwest Nadine  
7 Braudaway; West Coast Kelly Pena; Northwest Marjorie  
8 Ippert; Junior Past National President Carolyn  
9 Whitaker; National Financial Secretary Christina  
10 Murray; National Treasurer Bea Parco; National  
11 Executive Secretary Doris C. Fri; National Vice  
12 President Jean Smith; and our National President,  
13 Helen Courneya.

14 (APPLAUSE.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you, and please be  
16 seated.

17 CHAIRMAN: I would first like to ask FRA's  
18 Regional Vice Presidents to stand as I introduce  
19 you, and please hold your applause until I introduce  
20 everyone in each group:

21 Regional Vice Presidents: Northeast/New

1 England Joyce Harris; East Coast Randy Phillipp;  
2 Southeast James P. Richmond; North Central Barry  
3 White; South Central Emmett Smith; Southwest John F.  
4 Quesnel, Jr.; West Coast Rick Athenour; and  
5 Northwest Stephen Talkington.

6 (APPLAUSE.)

7 CHAIRMAN: Now I would like to introduce  
8 FRA's Regional Presidents-Elect. Please stand as  
9 you are recognized:

10 Regional Presidents-Elect: Northeast/New  
11 England Albert Davenport; East Coast Paul A. Phelps;  
12 Southeast James J. Thomas; North Central Rosemary  
13 Posekany; South Central Bruce R. Talbot, Jr.;  
14 Southwest Bruce H. Davis II; West Coast Maria A.  
15 Behm; and Northwest Roger L. Christopher.

16 (APPLAUSE.)

17 CHAIRMAN: A large number of our Past  
18 National Officers of the Fleet Reserve Association  
19 are present this morning. Time does not permit  
20 individual introductions, so I ask all Past National  
21 Officers of the Fleet Reserve Association to please



1 stand and be acknowledged.

2 (APPLAUSE.)

3 CHAIRMAN: Please be seated, and thank you  
4 for joining us here in Hunt Valley. I will now  
5 introduce the Past National Presidents of the Fleet  
6 Reserve Association. Please stand as you are  
7 recognized:

8 John D. Ippert; Virgil P. Courneya;  
9 Jeffrey A. Gilmartin; James W. Scarbro; Gary C.  
10 Blackburn; F. Donald Mucheck; Lawrence J. Boudreaux;  
11 George R. Kaye; Dick B. Smith; Thomas L. Leister;  
12 Robert G. Beese.

13 (APPLAUSE.)

14 CHAIRMAN: I will now introduce the  
15 National Officers of the Fleet Reserve Association.  
16 Please stand as you are recognized:

17 National Chaplain Jerry D. Pugh; National  
18 Parliamentarian PNP Robert G. Beese; Regional  
19 President Northeast/New England Albert Davenport;  
20 East Coast Thomas F. Vatter; Southeast James E.  
21 Robinson, Jr.; North Central Norman G. Combs; South

1 Central Bruce R. Talbot, Jr.; Southwest Bruce H.  
2 Davis II; Northwest Margret A. Burke; Junior Past  
3 National President Virgil P. Courneya; Regional  
4 President of the West Coast, Maria A. Behm; and to  
5 my right on the stage is National Executive Director  
6 Thomas J. Snee; National Vice President William E.  
7 Starkey; and National President Donald E. Larson.

8 (APPLAUSE.)

9 CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. On behalf of  
10 the 2017 National Convention Committee, I would like  
11 to welcome all of you to historic Maryland. The  
12 Committee members worked hard to ensure that you  
13 have a pleasant and enjoyable visit to Maryland. We  
14 have set up a 2017 National Convention Committee  
15 office in the Derby Room to help and assist you.  
16 There is always a shipmate or a member of the  
17 Auxiliary waiting to serve and assist you. The  
18 office hours are from 0700 to 1800. And when this  
19 is over, please have a safe travel back home because  
20 we would like to see all of you again in San  
21 Antonio.

1 (APPLAUSE.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN: The 2017 National Convention  
3 Planning Committee and the Auxiliary of Unit 4  
4 extends its warmest greetings to all of you and to  
5 thank you for visiting our wonderful State of  
6 Maryland. We hope while you're here you get a  
7 chance to see some of the wonderful sites of  
8 Baltimore County and of Maryland. I know some of  
9 you have already done some tours. We hope you have  
10 an opportunity to see some of the national monuments  
11 while you're here. Our visit is going to be very  
12 jampacked with our convention going on, and so we're  
13 here to help you enjoy your time here. So please  
14 let us know how we may be able to do that. Thank  
15 you again and welcome to Maryland.

16 (APPLAUSE.)

17 CHAIRMAN: I know would like to bring up  
18 our guest speaker, National Executive Director  
19 Emeritus Joe Barnes, for a report of the status of  
20 the FRA Education Foundation.

21 MR. BARNES: Good morning, shipmates,

1 members of the Auxiliary. It's a pleasure to be  
2 here. I just have a brief update on what's going on  
3 with the FRA Education Foundation.

4 The foundation's work is directly related  
5 to the mission and founding principles of the FRA.  
6 In 2009, the foundation was established to continue  
7 and expand the scholarship program, which had been  
8 part of the FRA for a number of years. The  
9 foundation is a separate 501(c) organization with  
10 the state governing documents, a separate board of  
11 directors, and IRS designation. Foundation finances  
12 are maintained in separate accounts and audited  
13 annually. And please read the Foundation National  
14 Convention Report in your delegate kit for more  
15 information.

16 We've been authorized to participate in  
17 the annual Combined Federal Campaign, or CFC, since  
18 2012. The CFC is administered by the Office of  
19 Personnel Management. And this year, the  
20 opportunity to contribute to authorized charities  
21 via the CFC is expanding to include military,

1 federal, and postal retirees. The campaign begins  
2 on October 2nd and runs through mid-January 2018.

3 Earlier this year, the foundation was  
4 approved as a member of the Military Support Groups  
5 of America, a federation of military and veterans  
6 groups certified as America's best charities. This  
7 is significant not just for the foundation, but also  
8 for our affiliated parent organization, the Fleet  
9 Reserve Association. So we're very, very proud of  
10 that designation. These organizations meet the  
11 highest standards of public accountability, program  
12 efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

13 This year, we awarded 21 scholarships  
14 totaling \$90,000 to recipients in 15 states thanks  
15 to legacy donations, individual and branch  
16 donations, and other contributions. We also awarded  
17 two Colonel Hazel Benn scholarships to the children  
18 of Navy Corpsman who served in support of the United  
19 States Marine Corps. As you've heard me say a  
20 number of times, we need help to expand awareness of  
21 these awards because many years we cannot award

1     this, a state designated award program, or these  
2     awards, because we do not have adequate Navy  
3     Corpsman -- the children of Navy Corpsman applying  
4     to these \$2,000 scholarships.

5             The cost of education continues to rise,  
6     and there's a growing need for assistance.  
7     Scholarships can make a big difference in the lives  
8     of the recipients, and we need help from all  
9     shipmates and Auxiliary members to help expand  
10    awareness about the program and encourage more  
11    college-bound students to apply. Please mention the  
12    foundation scholarships at branch and unit meetings  
13    and note that the 2018 scholarship applications are  
14    posted on the FRA website at [FRA.org/foundation](http://FRA.org/foundation).  
15    Please also contact the guidance department at your  
16    local high school and tell them about the program  
17    and ask if you can provide some brochures or  
18    posters, which are available through National  
19    Headquarters. It's also important, with regard to  
20    the Americanism essay contest, that particularly  
21    11th and 12th graders be informed about the

1 scholarship program. Very, very important. There's  
2 opportunities there to expand awareness of the  
3 Association and to help encourage more applications.

4 It's no secret that the FRA and its  
5 auxiliary are facing challenges with sustaining  
6 and/or growing our memberships. Scholarships are  
7 high-interest items with potential members, and we  
8 should not miss opportunities to mention the program  
9 when speaking to various groups about the benefits  
10 of membership, especially since applicants  
11 affiliated with the FRA qualify to receive most of  
12 the foundation awards. The foundation takes pride  
13 in maintaining low administrative costs in  
14 conjunction with this program, and we're fortunate  
15 to have dedicated volunteers to make this possible.

16 Finally, Amazon -- the AmazonSmile program  
17 contributes one-half of one percent of qualified  
18 purchases to designated charitable education  
19 organizations. The foundation is registered in that  
20 program, and those that select the foundation  
21 through a special web address will help Amazon

1 provide support for future awards.

2 To recap, all applications, including  
3 those for LA FRA scholarships, are available via the  
4 FRA website at FRA.org/foundation. Thank you for  
5 your strong and continued support of the foundation  
6 and a special thanks to individual shipmates and  
7 branches for their continuous contributions to this  
8 program. Have a great convention. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 (APPLAUSE.)

11 CHAIRMAN: We will now proceed to conduct  
12 the Two Bell Ceremony.

13 (Three raps of the gavel.)

14 NCHAP PUGH: The toll of the ship's  
15 bell --

16 (Bell rings once.)

17 NCHAP PUGH: -- reminds us of the  
18 reverence we owe to our departed shipmates --

19 (Bell rings once.)

20 NCHAP PUGH: -- and to those who guard the  
21 honor of our country --



1 (Bell rings once.)

2 NCHAP PUGH: -- upon the sea, under the  
3 sea --

4 (Bell rings once.)

5 NCHAP PUGH: -- in the air, and upon  
6 foreign soil.

7 (Bell rings once.)

8 NCHAP PUGH: Let it be a reminder of the  
9 faith they confide in us.

10 (Bell rings once.)

11 NCHAP PUGH: Let us who gather here not  
12 forget our obligations --

13 (Bell rings once.)

14 NCHAP PUGH: -- and in silence breathe a  
15 prayer for our absent shipmates.

16 (Bell rings once.)

17 NCHAP PUGH: Each in his own words and  
18 each in his own way, bow your heads and let us pray.

19 (Bell rings once.)

20 NCHAP PUGH: Offering a silent prayer for  
21 our departed shipmates --

1 (Bell rings once.)

2 NCHAP PUGH: -- who are now serving on the  
3 staff of the Supreme Commander.

4 (Bell rings once.)

5 NCHAP PUGH: (Recites prayer.)

6 (One rap of the gavel.)

7 CHAIRMAN: The National Executive Director  
8 will now read some convention greetings.

9 NED SNEE: Shipmates, Auxiliary members, a  
10 message from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

11 "I send my warmest greetings to the  
12 veterans, servicemembers, and families gathered for  
13 the 90th National Convention of the Fleet Reserve  
14 Association in Hunt Valley, Maryland. Since 1927,  
15 the FRA and its members have proudly served our  
16 nation's veterans, military families, and  
17 communities. Your selfless devotion to our country  
18 and our men and women in uniform represents the best  
19 of the American traditions. The Department of  
20 Veterans Affairs holds in highest regard our sacred  
21 duty to support our Armed Forces and, in the words

1 of President Lincoln, "to care for him who shall  
2 have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan."  
3 Lincoln's pledge is our mission statement, and we  
4 all will continue to work with you to ensure that  
5 veterans receive the care they earned and deserve.  
6 Thank you for your 90 plus years of service to our  
7 comrades and to our country. Sincerely, David J.  
8 Shulkin, M.D., Secretary of Veterans Affairs."

9 A message from the Commandant of the  
10 United States Marine Corps:

11 "On behalf of all Marines, I am pleased to  
12 welcome the members of the Fleet Reserve Association  
13 as you gather for your 90th National Convention.  
14 Since Chief Yeoman George Carlin founded the FRA in  
15 1924, this Association has worked tirelessly on  
16 behalf of our nation's warriors. As the oldest and  
17 largest professional military organization  
18 exclusively representing enlisted men and women, the  
19 FRA has substantially impassioned the lives of those  
20 who serve. Marines appreciate your diligence in  
21 advocating on Capitol Hill and educating Marines and

1 sailors on the legislation that affects them. Your  
2 efforts significantly enhance the welfare of those  
3 in uniform, past and present. Your commitment to  
4 our military men and women reflects the highest  
5 traditions and ethos of our sea services. As you  
6 gather for this year's convention, know that all  
7 Marines are sincerely grateful for your  
8 contributions to our military and our nation. Thank  
9 you for your dedication and energy you put into this  
10 cause. Best wishes for a successful and memorable  
11 convention. Sincerely, Robert B. Neller, General,  
12 United States Marine Corps, Commandant, United  
13 States Marines."

14 One more:

15 "Fleet Reserve Association, Greetings. It  
16 is a pleasure to welcome everyone gathered for the  
17 Fleet Reserve Association's 90th National  
18 Convention. I appreciate the efforts of this  
19 organization who represent the interest of the sea  
20 service community. As Chairman of the Senate  
21 Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I commend this

1 organization for its hard work and dedication. I  
2 thank all of those who have had a hand in organizing  
3 this event, and I send my best wishes for a  
4 memorable convention. Sincerely, Johnny Isakson,  
5 Chairman."

6 (APPLAUSE.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN: Madam National President,  
8 will you please join me at the podium. We of the  
9 85th Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve  
10 Association National Convention Committee present  
11 you with this gift, and we wish you a most  
12 productive, harmonious, and enjoyable convention.

13 (Chairwoman presents a gift to NP LA FRA  
14 Courneya.)

15 NP LA FRA COURNEYA: Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN: I would now like to invite  
17 you to speak to the assembly.

18 NP LA FRA COURNEYA: I just want to  
19 welcome everyone here to this convention. I hope  
20 that the FRA side of the house will have a  
21 harmonious convention. I would like to recognize

1 the Convention Committee. They've done an  
2 outstanding job. They are so helpful to everyone,  
3 and I would just like to say thank you.

4 (APPLAUSE.)

5 NP LA FRA COURNEYA: So I will refrain  
6 from speaking any further, and we'll take up our  
7 business this afternoon. So thank you for your  
8 time.

9 (APPLAUSE.)

10 CHAIRMAN: Shipmate National President,  
11 will you please join me at the podium. On behalf of  
12 the FRA's 90th National Convention Committee, it is  
13 my pleasure to present you with this gift and to  
14 wish you a successful and enjoyable convention.

15 (Chairman presents a gift to NP FRA  
16 Larson.)

17 NP FRA LARSON: Thank you very much.  
18 Thank you.

19 (APPLAUSE.)

20 CHAIRMAN: Now I would like to invite you  
21 to please address the shipmates.

1                   NP FRA LARSON: Shipmates, Auxiliary,  
2 delegates, guests, it's truly an honor and privilege  
3 to be here this morning and this week as National  
4 President for the 90th FRA National Convention. A  
5 special thank you to the Committee for all your hard  
6 work you've been through and that we will yet put  
7 you through.

8                   We will convene the First Business Session  
9 of the 90th FRA National Convention at 1300 in the  
10 Hunt Ballroom. I will ask my National Officers to  
11 remain in the uniform of the day. All others,  
12 relaxed business attire to what you believe  
13 appropriate. Delegates, will you please come to the  
14 1300 meeting with your delegate kits, including the  
15 programs and your Constitution and Bylaws. Thank  
16 you very much.

17                   (APPLAUSE.)

18                   CHAIRMAN: I have a few announcements.  
19 First, representatives from the VA are holding a  
20 claims clinic on Thursday morning to address issues  
21 relating to education, G.I. Bill, vocational rehab,

1 and eBenefits and other issues. A sign-up sheet  
2 will be posted at the registration desk.

3 All the tours and the casinos, the  
4 Medieval Times, the Thursday trips are canceled, but  
5 those who have reserved for Thursday, you are  
6 welcome to join the Friday trips. The Fort McHenry  
7 tour is also canceled because of change in the  
8 schedule; it interferes with our business schedule.  
9 The MGM casino in Oxon Hill, Maryland, is also  
10 canceled, due to a low sign-up.

11 CHAIRWOMAN: For those of you shipmates  
12 who still need to finish registration and pick up  
13 those meal tickets, know that we begin our first  
14 session today, as well as meals. So that is very  
15 important. You'll need to go to your respective --  
16 the shipmates' is in the lower level for  
17 registration and your meal pick up, and the  
18 Auxiliary will be on the upper level in the Maryland  
19 coat check for your meal tickets and registration.  
20 I don't know -- are we opening back up registration  
21 really fast or no?



1 UNIDENTIFIED AUXILIARY MEMBER: No,  
2 there's not enough time.

3 CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you so much.

4 So no registration for the ladies before  
5 the first session, and more to come. Anyway, if you  
6 are looking for support, if you can't find -- if  
7 you've got issues with your hotel and you can't get  
8 them answered, we've got an office in the Belmont --  
9 I'm sorry, in the Derby Room. That's straight from  
10 the elevator. Please find us, look for us. We're  
11 also in black shirts, hospitality, and we're trying  
12 to open that for you as much as we can. Thank you  
13 so much, and that's it for my announcements. Thank  
14 you.

15 (APPLAUSE.)

16 CHAIRMAN: And one last announcement. The  
17 free breakfast will go on until Friday. And it will  
18 be at the end of this hall. Although it's free, we  
19 encourage donations.

20 Final announcement. The photo ops for all  
21 the National Officers and the Regional Officers is

1 going to be immediately after this ceremony.

2 CHAIRWOMAN: I do have one more  
3 announcement. Ladies Auxiliary, shipmates, for  
4 those attending the luncheons, and I will tell you  
5 the location: For the FRA Past National Presidents'  
6 luncheon, Saloon E --

7 (LAUGHTER.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN: Salon E. LA FRA Past  
9 National Presidents' luncheon is Salon F. The FRA  
10 RP, RP-Elect, and RVP luncheon is in the Belmont.  
11 And the LA FRA RP, RP-Elect, and RVP luncheon is in  
12 Maryland 4. Registration according to the schedule  
13 is 1130 to 1300. There's also an iMIS membership  
14 database training in Salon A. Light lunch is  
15 included. And then the FRA First Business Session  
16 will be in the Hunt Ballroom at 1300, and the LA FRA  
17 First Business Session will be in Maryland Rooms 1,  
18 2, and 3.

19 One other thing. Shipmates and Auxiliary  
20 members, those of you who want to change your meals  
21 for the banquet, originally it was on the

1 newsletters and announced that it would be all the  
2 chicken and fish. We've now been given the option  
3 of also chicken and fish or beef. It's short ribs  
4 beef, I believe it is. So mention that when you  
5 pick up your tickets. And if you didn't do that,  
6 you're going to get chicken and fish. That's how  
7 that'll work. Thank you so much.

8 CHAIRMAN: By the way, photo ops will be  
9 in this room.

10 I now invite the National Presidents of  
11 the Fleet Reserve Association and the Ladies  
12 Auxiliary to please convene your respective  
13 conventions.

14 NP LA FRA COURNEYA: I hereby convene the  
15 85th National Convention of the LA FRA --

16 (One rap of the gavel.)

17 NP FRA LARSON: And the 90th National  
18 Convention of the FRA.

19 (One rap of the gavel.)

20 NP LA FRA COURNEYA: I now return the  
21 gavel to the Chairman of the 90th National

1 Convention Committee to recess the Joint Opening  
2 Ceremonies.

3 CHAIRMAN: Shipmate Chaplain, please close  
4 the Bible.

5 (Three raps of the gavel.)

6 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmates, the Bible is  
7 closed.

8 (One rap of the gavel.)

9 CHAIRMAN: I now declare the Joint Opening  
10 Ceremonies of the 90th FRA National Convention --

11 CHAIRWOMAN: And the 85th LA FRA National  
12 Convention.

13 CHAIRMAN: -- completed and the  
14 Conventions in recess until 1300 today.

15 (One rap of the gavel.)

16 (The meeting was recessed at 1105, to be  
17 reconvened at 1300 for the First Business Sessions.)

18

19

20

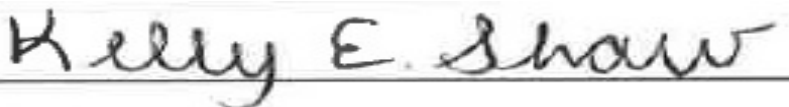
21

1 State of Maryland,  
2 County of Carroll, to wit:  
3

4 I, Kelly E. Shaw, a Notary Public in and  
5 for the State of Maryland, County of Carroll, do  
6 hereby certify that the within transcript was  
7 recorded electronically and transcribed by me and is  
8 a true record of the proceedings.  
9

10 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
11 to any of the parties, nor an employee of counsel,  
12 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
13 interested in the outcome of this action.

14 As witness my hand and Notarial Seal this 10th day  
15 of October, 2017.  
16

17   
18

19 Kelly E. Shaw, Notary Public  
20

21 My Commission expires: November 21, 2019

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