



Shipmates' Report

FRA Branch 99 Newsletter



SERVING ACTIVE DUTY, FORMER ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED STATES NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD SINCE 1967

DAYTIME OFFICE PHONES: 499-6650/499-1155 BRANCH WEB SITE: www.fra99.com

Volume 22, Issue No.10

July-August 2006

BRANCH 99 ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The May 10 Branch 99 General Assembly meeting was election night which saw the carryover of three officers and the election of a new vice president. Jim Griffin, our featured "Know Your Shipmate" this issue, was elected as the new vice president.

The success of our Branch this past year can be expected to continue with the continuation of these officers. Jim Griffin has also been a key factor in most of the Branch functions this past year.

A new Board of Directors was also elected with some new faces in that lineup.

The new Branch 99 Officers are:

President	Charlie Baldwin
Vice President	Jim Griffin
Secretary	Martin Wood
Treasurer	Gerald Jeffers

The members of the Board of Directors are:

Richard Dempsey	Edward Filipowski
Cindy Hefty	Milton Knapp
Robert Long	Alvin Morean
Robert Overholt	John Thumma

The installation of officers was held at the Roma Lodge on June 14. Shipmate Paul Gunther, FRA East Coast Regional President, was the installing official. We appreciate his traveling in the bad weather, which was very uncooperative, as a tropical storm came up the east coast, dropping great amounts of rain. For this reason, the attendance was lower than usual.

The Branch 99 Corporation also has new officers.

They are:

Chairman	Norman Gapter
Vice Chairman	Harry Millett
Treasurer	Paul White
Secretary	John Westman

The Corporation Board members are:

Darrell Cole	Joe Conner
David Cunningham	Win Johnson
Ron Owens	John Schweers
Robert Meeker	(Vacancy)

The above vacancy was caused by Richard Dempsey moving to the Branch 99 Board. Remember, a member may only serve on one board at a time. If you are interested in filling this vacancy, call Norm Gapter at the Branch.

Best wishes to both boards for another successful year in Tidewater.

MEMBERSHIP

New Member Report

Welcome all new members to Branch 99. Please come to the next Branch meeting on July 12 to meet your new shipmates. Meetings are held at 1900 on the second Wednesday of each month.

For April 2006: Anderson, Michael D.; Chisley, Ja Von; Fronek, Brice; Green, Eric; Haywood, Cedric L.; Matthews, Jonathon; Roberson, Robin D. Zaporteza, Glicerio C.

For May 2006: Bissmeyer, Curtis; Haase, Michael P.; Hefferman, Buck; Johnson-Key, Nigeria; Krall, Margaret K; .Pelt, Terry J.; Smith, Richard C.; Steward, William M.

Past Due: Shipmates, we have a large number of members who have not sent in their dues, and some who have been terminated for non-payment. The National FRA organization is working to keep or improve your benefits just as a union would do. Nobody else is looking out for you. It is important that we keep up our support of the FRA so that it may continue to work for us. Please send in your dues to maintain your support.

TAPS

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED THE SUPREME COMMANDER

Fike, Thomas F.	RMC	USN RET
Kolaczyk, Daniel L.	RMC	USN RET
Mantz, Homer C.	CWO2	USN RET
Morton, Karl O.	PO1	USN RET




THE PREZ SEZ

Shipmates, The beginning of another administrative year has arrived. The newly elected Officers and Directors were installed at

the June Membership Meeting. It now becomes their duty to guide our Branch through the coming year.

Looking back over the past year, I am reminded of the many accomplishments that have taken place. I am proud to say that Branch 99 continues to forge ahead, and that our Branch is highly spoken of within the FRA community, as well as the local community. I am honored to have been chosen, once again, to serve as your President. Thank You.

Charlie

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ?

A dime has 118 ridges around its edge.
A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
A goldfish has a 3 second memory.
A “jiffy” is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.
Babies are born without kneecaps.
Butterflies taste with their feet.
A snail can sleep for three years.
Almonds are a member of the peach family.
Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds.
Dogs only have about 10.
If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
It’s impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
Maine is the only “one syllable” state.
Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
Tigers have striped skin, not just fur.
Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
The average person’s left hand does 56% of the typing.

COMING EVENTS

Mark these dates on your calendar:

July 4, Tuesday 1700 Picnic at the Branch Home and stay for fireworks. Tickets must be purchased (\$5 each) and parking passes picked up at the Branch Home prior to the event.

July 12, Wednesday 0900 Maintenance Day at the Branch Home. Come on out and lend your two hands. We can use them.

July 12, Wednesday, 1900, Branch 99 General Assembly meeting. Come out, win a dinner or a membership if you are lucky. Can't win if you are not there.

July 30, Sunday, 0830-1100. Branch Breakfast \$5.00 per person. Active duty families eat free.

August 9, Wednesday 0900, Maintenance Day at the Branch Home. See you there.

August 9, Wednesday, 1900, Branch 99 General Assembly meeting.

August 27, Sunday, 0830-1100, . Branch Breakfast \$5.00 per person. Active duty families eat free.

BRANCH HOME MAINTENANCE

Wednesday morning on Branch Meeting day is the time to ensure that we keep up our great facility. If you have electrical, carpentry or plumbing experience we can use you to keep the Branch in working order. If you just have some muscles, come out and help the pros and learn something at the same time. We need some new faces on the second Wednesday morning of each month at or before 0900. Come early for coffee.

PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

The Branch recycling program is still ongoing. If you have empty cartridges from printers, copiers or facsimile machines please drop them off in the collection box in the coffee lounge. The Branch does make some money on this program. Throwing them away won't help anybody. It all adds up.

RESTAURANT/MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

The supporting restaurant list is provided for your reference. These places support us; you may wish to support them. Don't forget to talk to the manager and tell him/her that Branch 99 appreciates their support.

Aberdeen Barn Steak House 5805 Northampton Blvd. Va. Beach
Applebee's 1426 Kempsville Road, Va. Beach
A~J Gator's Sports Bar & Grill 3908 Holland Rd. Va. Beach
Bonefish Grill 3333 Va. Bch. Blvd
Bravo Cusina Italiana Town Center, Va. Beach
Carrabba's Italian Grill 1217 Battlefield Blvd. N. Ches.
IHOP Kempsville 1316 Fordham Dr. Va. Beach
Keagan's Restaurant Town Center, Va. Beach
Kelly's Tavern Va. Bch. Blvd. (Pembroke Mall)
Max & Erma's Pembroke 4512 Va. Beach Blvd.
O'Sullivan's Wharf 3644 Va. Beach Blvd. Va. Beach
The Raven Restaurant 1200 Atlantic Ave. Va. Beach
Romamo's Macaroni Grill Town Center, Va. Beach
Ruth's Chris Steak House Town Center, Va. Beach
Shirley Coleman (Holiday Inn) 5655 Greenwich Rd. Va. Beach
Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill 4590 Va. Beach Blvd.
Texas Road House 1546 Sam's Circle, Chesapeake
Waterman's Beachwood Grill 415 Atlantic Ave. Va. Bch.

FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

Last year's Fourth of July picnic was a big success. This year promises to be as good or better. HOWEVER, in order to control the food and attendance it is necessary that you purchase tickets (\$5) (\$7 guests) and pick up parking passes at the Branch Home prior to the event. The picnic is starting later this year so that the wait for the fireworks will not be so long. Also, it is cooler later in the day. See you there.

=====

SHIPMATES' REPORT is published bi-monthly by Kempsville Branch 99, Inc. Fleet Reserve Association. It is distributed free of charge to Branch 99 members, East Coast Regional branch secretaries and the FRA National Executive Secretary. Articles may be reproduced with acknowledgement of the source.

Editor: Walt Hutchison Tel. 410-9151

The Branch Home is at 357 Edwin Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 next to Lake Trashmore. **Telephones:** 757-499-6650 and 499-1155. **Internet:** www.fra99.com
Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1900 hours.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

10 May 2006

The monthly Branch General Assembly Meeting was held on Wednesday, 10 May, 2006.

This was election night, the details of which are on page 1. Also voted upon was the Branch 99 Budget for the coming year. This was passed.

Guests attending were: S/M PRPEC Jeff Gilmartin and Mrs. Aubrey Verget. .

Shipmate Oscar P. Delostrinos received the obligation.

NAS Oceana Command Master Chief sent a letter thanking the Branch for our support of the Sailor of the Quarter Program. Kempsville High also wrote to thank us for our advertisement.

S/M Win Johnson requested volunteers to assist with the Fourth of July set-up and cooking duties. Volunteers report at 1000.

S/M Hutchison reported that the Newsletter was mailed late due to an equipment problem at the printers. He is looking into a back-up printer or a change since this is not the first time they have delayed distribution.

The Branch 99 Charter was draped in black in memory of departed shipmates and Memorial Day.

A Two-Bell Ceremony was held for: Jacob P. Schneider; Michael J. Simeisko and Finas R. Moss.

S/M PRPEC Gilmartin reported that S/M Bob McMann, PRPEC is ill.

S/M Aubrey Verget received his 50 year membership pin.

Lifetime membership drawing was won by S/M Tony Washington. One year memberships won by S/Ms Filipowski and Hutchison.

Members present: 51

DISCUSSION AROUND THE BRANCH

Two new items of interest to members have recently been unofficially discussed and investigated. No official action has yet taken place. It is in your best interest, as a member of Branch 99 to attend coming meetings and participate in discussions.

The first item deals with expanding our meeting hall to allow storage of tables and chairs, or even a larger kitchen.

The second item concerns placement of a memorial marker stone and plaque at the Virginia Beach Veterans' Memorial site from Kempsville Branch 99.

KNOW YOUR SHIPMATE



Jim Griffin

Our new Vice President

Jim Griffin is a mainstay at the Branch Home. He has been, and is, involved in many Branch 99 projects. He has held various offices and committee assignments, and is now our new Vice President.

Jim was born in Montpelier, Vermont and enlisted in the Navy in June, 1958. After boot camp at Great Lakes he was sent to aviation training in Pensacola. He spent his entire career at Naval Air Stations and serving in carrier squadrons. His duty stations were spread all over the U.S. and in foreign countries. They included Mayport, FL; USS Wasp in Boston; San Diego, CA; Sangley Point, P.I.; Patuxent River, MD; Vietnam; Kodiak, Alaska; Kingsville, TX; Rota Spain; NAS Norfolk, VA; NAS Cubi Point, P.I.; and NAS Oceana, VA from which he retired in 1983.

(continued from previous page)
He married his wife, Lita, in Manila, Philippine Islands in March 1964. They have three children, Jerry, Christine and Maria.

In his new life, after retirement, he stayed with the air community working for contractors. They included Bell Helicopter, Grumman, Flight International, and Northrup Grumman. He retired from the work-force in 2001.

Jim originally joined the FRA in the P.I. in 1965 but has been active in Branch 99 since 1981. He is the current Bingo manager; he runs the monthly breakfasts, audits the Branch 99 books and has served on countless committees.

Stop by the Branch almost any morning and you will see Jim. Talk to him about volunteering your services and he will certainly fit you right into a spot that matches your talents.

PICTURES FROM THE INSTALLATION DINNER



From the other side.



Yes, there were people in attendance!



RPEC Paul Gunther and Charlie Baldwin



More people who braved the storm.



New Officers taking the oath.



Branch # 99 Newsletter

Kempsville Branch 99
357 Edwin Drive
Virginia Beach, Va. 23462
(757) 499-6650

Non Profit Org

U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit No. 508

~INSIDE~

Branch President's Comments
General Assembly Excerpts
Announcements
Volunteer Opportunities

Page 6**SHIPMATES' REPORT****July – August 2006****Volunteer Opportunities:**

This newsletter editor is looking for someone to act as a back-up, just in case I am unable to take care of business. No operation should be totally dependent upon one person. That is why we have Vice Presidents! This newsletter is published bi-monthly, and requires a few days to put it together.

Basic computer skills are required, using Microsoft Word and downloading photographs via e-mail from our photographer. Give me a call if you are interested and I will go through the process with you. All the material used is collected and/or provided to you. You do not have to be an author.

Call me at 757-410-9151.

Your editor, Walt Hutchison

Branch 99 is always looking for volunteers in many different areas. If you have free time, stop by, talk to Charlie Baldwin, Joe Porambo or Win Johnson. They will be happy to see you. Or, just come to the Branch Home on the morning of the second Wednesday of each month about 0900 for maintenance day.

For those who like to stay indoors, the Navy Medical Center, Oceana Branch, is looking for volunteers to file medical record chits. There is no patient contact and the work week can easily be shared by volunteers. Any time that you could give them would be appreciated. Call Mr. Holcomb or Mr. Darrah at 757-953-7689.