



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

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Wednesday May 9th is Branch 99 Election Day
Come to the Branch meeting and vote. Remember to carry your membership card with you.

Now is the time to volunteer for a Branch officer position or the Board of Directors. Three officer positions and eight seats on the Board of Directors are up for election. If you are interested NOW is the time to contact the election committee, Cindy Hefty, Joe Porambo or Richard Bass, to get your name on the ballot. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting, but it is best if you already have your name on the ballot. If you want a voice in operating our Branch, this is the way to do it. New members are welcome to run for office.

The currently listed Branch officer candidates are: President – Charlie Baldwin; Vice President – Jim Griffin; Secretary - Martin Wood

The candidates for the Board of Directors are: Richard Bass, Richard Dempsey, Daniel Joseph, Edward Filipowski, Robert Long, Alvin Morean and John Thumma.

TWO AMERICANISM ESSAY WINNERS ADVANCE TO WIN AT REGIONAL

Two winners in our Branch 99 Americanism Essay Contest, whose essays then competed at the regional level have won Regional first places. Each of them has won a \$200 Savings Bond in addition to their previous prizes from Branch 99. Their essays are now entered in the National contest. They are: Nathan Filipowski, Eighth grade and Emily Ann Cruz, Tenth grade. Congratulations to both of them.

MEMBERSHIP

New Member Report

Welcome all new members to Branch 99. Come to the next Branch meeting on May 9 to meet your new shipmates. Meetings are held at 1900 on the second Wednesday of each month.

For February / March 2007: Phyllis T. Bautista, Nedeo Blanco, Bernard C. Bray, Bernie Brothers, Ronald Daniels, Travis Dean, Richard Groover, Horace C. Hill, Jr., Jack E. Hollingsworth, Daniel D. Joseph, Eric Lynch, George R. Milak, Larry D. McRae, Ellen Miranda, Patrick Mitchell, Herman W. Nickson, Deana M. Palmisano, John Rice, Michael W. Robinson, Luis E. Serranno, Paul Swofford, Terrance A Vickers, Douglas Williams

Past Due. The National FRA organization is working to keep or improve your benefits just as a union would do. It is important that you send in your dues to help continue this support.

RECRUITING AND RETENTION

Shipmates, recruitment and retention are the life blood of our Branch. Our Branch receives approximately one half of the money paid for yearly dues to the FRA and more for multi-year memberships. The funds received are an important part of Branch 99 Funding.

So what can you do?

1. Keep your address current with FRA Headquarters and our Branch (The Secretary of the Branch can now make changes to addresses and phone numbers in the FRA National Membership Data Base).
2. Keep your dues current. It is easy. There are many convenient ways to pay. One is to pay when your notice comes from F.R.A.Headquarters. You can also pay your dues on line. It is easy; just follow the steps on the website (FRA.org).
3. Check your membership card when you attend monthly meetings. If payment of dues is necessary see the Branch Secretary he will gladly forward your dues to the FRA Headquarters.

Current eligibility requirements: To join the F.R.A you must certify that you meet the eligibility requirements of being a current or former enlisted member of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard and that you can produce a copy of your military identification or DD214 upon request.

Volunteers are requested for a future recruiting table at NAB Little Creek. We need some "younger" members to assist us. The active duty people who know of the FRA believe that we are a bunch of "old guys." Contact Jim Griffin at 499-6650 or at the branch home.

Finally Shipmates what the government gives the government can take. There is strength in numbers let's be strong together.

Martin G. Wood
Secretary Branch 99

TAPS

Alvin L. Becker	ETCS	USN RET
George F. Daniels	HTC	USN RET
Harold W. Finchem	MGYSGT	USMC RET
Robert B. McIntyre	QMCM	USN RET
James E. Morrissey	ADJ1	USN RET

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Fathers' Day, 18 June 2007

In 1966 Lyndon Johnson established the third Sunday of June as Father's Day, where any person acting as a father figure, be it a dad, step-father, uncle, grandfather, guardian, etc., is honored. In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd, after hearing a sermon on Mother's Day, thought a day should be devoted to fathers. Her mother died after giving birth to her sixth child, and her father had to raise all six kids alone on their farm. Sonora remembered how selfless her father was in caring for them. She then chose her father's birthday, June 19th to be the first Father's Day. By 1924, Calvin Coolidge thought it would be a good idea to make it a National Holiday. Shipmates, as we honor our

father figures, let us not forget to honor the Supreme Commander, who looks out for us all. The Bible does say, "Call no one on earth your Father; you have but one Father in heaven: (Matthew 23:9), but in this scriptural passage, Father means God, the creator of the universe. The head of your household may have god-like status, but only because "father knows best!" Does anybody still remember the 1950s TV series of the same name?

Tor Evasco



Shipmates,

I have just returned home from our monthly (April) Membership Meeting. As usual, the meeting hall was filled almost to a point of standing room only. What was even more impressive was that we were honored to have the Regional President East Coast, Dell Herrmann in attendance. Did we do anything different? I don't think so. It was business as usual. In his words, he was very impressed with our meeting, and even more so, with our Branch. As I have often said to you, I remarked to Shipmate Del Herrman, we are a strong and proud Branch. I feel that tonight we have gained an ally, one who will speak of what he has seen at our meeting, throughout his visits to other branches in the East Coast Region. I am very proud of you. Be proud of yourself, you have earned it.

Charlie Baldwin

LOCAL RESTAURANTS SUPPORT

Local restaurants are continuing to provide dinner meal gift certificates to encourage attendance at Branch General Membership meetings. Those certificates are presented as prizes in drawings held at Branch meetings. The restaurants' support of our non-profit veterans' association is greatly appreciated. Those restaurants currently participating are:

- Aberdeen Barn Steak House** 5805 Northampton Blvd. Virginia, Beach, VA. 23455
- A ~ J Gator's Sports Bar & Grill** 3908 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, VA. 23452
- Applebee's (Kempsville)** 1426 Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach, VA. 23464
- Applebee's (Loehmann's Plaza)** 4040 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA
- Shirley Coleman (Holiday Inn)** 5655 Greenwich Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23462
- Bravo Cusina Italiana** 193 Central Park Ave. Virginia Beach, VA. 23462
- Carrabba's Italian Grill** 1217 Battlefield Blvd. N, Chesapeake, VA 23320
- Golden Corral**, 400 S. Independence Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA
- I HOP General Booth Blvd.** 1540 General Booth Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23454
- Keagan's Restaurant** 244 Market Street, Virginia Beach, VA. 23462
- Kelly's Tavern** 4586 Va. Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA. 23462
- Kincaid's Fish, Chop & Steak House** 300 Monticello Ave (McArthur Center) Norfolk, VA
- Max & Erma's Pembroke** 512 VA. Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA. 23464
- O'Sullivan's Wharf** 3644 Va. Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA. 23452
- Romano's Macaroni Grill** 4574 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23462
- Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill** 4590 Va. Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA. 23462
- Texas Road House** 1546 Sam's Circle, Chesapeake, VA. 23320
- The Raven Restaurant** 1200 Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach, VA. 23451
- Tripps Restaurant** 101 S. Independence Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA.23462

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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.

COMING EVENTS

May 9 Wednesday, 0800 Maintenance day at the Branch Home. Please come out and help with the necessary maintenance to keep our Branch Home in shape.

May 9, Wednesday, 1900 Branch 99 General Membership meeting at the Branch Home. Election of Officers.
Carry your membership card with you.
Come out and win a free dinner.

May 27, Sunday, 0830-1030 Branch 99 Breakfast at the Branch Home. \$5.00 each. Active duty families eat free.

June 13, Wednesday, 0800 Maintenance day at the Branch Home. Please volunteer to help keep our Home ship-shape.

June 13, Wednesday, 1900 Branch 99 General Membership meeting at the Branch Home.
Come out and win a free dinner.

June 24, Sunday 0830 – 1030 Branch 99 Breakfast at the Branch Home. \$5.00 each. Active duty families eat free.

KNOW YOUR SHIPMATE

By Edward O. Rainey, Jr.



David L. Cunningham

David is Retired Navy and a longtime FRA member. He was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on 16 June 1935. He enlisted in the Navy

at Ashland, KY. He attended boot camp in Great Lakes, IL from December 1952 through January 1953. He reported to Newport, RI for general duty in February of 1953. In November December of 1953 he attended pre-commissioning school for the USS Regulus (AF-57) which he commissioned and served in. The Regulus was then home ported in Oakland CA. While on the Regulus he made four West Pac cruises, visiting Japan, Korea, Philippines Islands, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Sasebo, Japan. In May 1955 he was assigned to a Top Secret mission that took him to Fr. Indonesia. He made GM3 on that cruise.

Returning to the states in 1956, he was discharged on June 7. He reenlisted on 6 Dec 1956 and was sent to Anacostia Naval Station in Washington., D.C. where he received orders to commission the USS Monticello (LSD 35) in Pascagoula, Miss, on 29 March 1957. We left Pascagoula for our assigned home port of San Diego via Boston and Earl N.J. to pick up ammunition. In March 1958 he the ship was assigned to Operation Hardtack I & II at Eniwetok Proving Ground to test A & H bombs. He was just 4 miles from the world's largest under water blast. On this cruise he made GM2 and he became a Shellback.

In November and December of 1958 they went to Kodiak, Alaska and back to San Diego. They then went to a French-American Explosion at Clipperton Island from February to June of 1959. He operated in and out San Diego until August of 1960. He was assigned to the USS Skagit (AKA 105), homeport San Diego. In Nov of 60 another West PAC cruise, stopping at Kobe, Japan, P.I., Okinawa, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Peal Harbor. They returned to the states in May of 61. He received orders to the USS Duval County (LST 758) in September of 1961. Hospitalized for 60 days he was transferred to the USS Cogswell (DD-651) also in San Diego. Jan of 62 he was transferred back to the USS Duval County to re-commission it. Again he sailed south thru the Panama Canal for the 3rd time. His new homeport was Little Creek, VA. In October of 1962 he received orders to "C" school in Great Lakes, IL. After 14 weeks of Electrical, Electronic & Hydraulic, he attended a 26 week school on the MK 13 Guided Missile Launcher System. He graduated in October of 1963 and received orders to Todd Ship Yard, at Seattle, WA. where he commissioned the USS Cochrane (DDG-21) to be home ported at Pearl Harbor, HI. While at Pearl

Harbor he was part of an operation called Project Sailor Hat, where 500 tons of T.N.T. were exploded off the island Kahoolawe, HI. The Cochrane was less than mile from the explosion. Upon completion of Project Sailor Hat, the Cochrane was ordered to West PAC to relieve the USS Maddox (DD-731) in Vietnam. While in West PAC he received orders to the Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, CA. In August 1965 he was assigned to test the "standard missile." In January of 1966 he was transferred to Concord NavWepSta. There he made GMM1 in April of 1966. In August of 1967 he received orders to commission the USS Furer (DEG-6), home ported in Newport, RI. While on the Furer he was assigned to the MK 22 Missile Launcher. In July 1968 David received orders to the USS Richard E. Byrd (DDG-23) home ported in Norfolk, VA. While on the Byrd he made one N. Atlantic cruise and three Mediterranean cruises. In August of 1971 he was transferred to shore duty at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown. He retired from active duty in August of 1972. In September he bought a service station and worked it for 17 years. He joined the FRA in 1976 and is a charter member of Branch 99. He is currently the Branch 99 Corporation treasurer. After selling the service station, he bought a Seafood Market in Chesapeake VA and kept it for one year. In November 1990 he became a real estate agent, and also worked at recording deeds. He worked at Hall Auto, delivering cars to dealers. David now works with his wife, Betty, for Martin's Focus Group in Virginia Beach where they now reside. They have four children. Carol, who lives in Virginia Beach; Charles lives in Pilgrims Knob, VA; Tracy lives in Clear Water, FL and David K. "Willie" lives on the Virginia. Eastern Shore.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTES

Branch 99 has withdrawn from participation in the Tidewater Area Council (TAC) on recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Two-Bell ceremonies were held in honor of the following shipmates: Alvin Becker, Everett G. Coe, George F. Daniels and Harold Finehem.

The Branch 99 Charter was draped in honor of PNP William G. McCarley.

Shipmate President Baldwin requested that shipmates pass their FRA TODAY magazines to any reading tables they might utilize in doctors' offices, barber shops, or other waiting rooms in order to publicize the FRA. Black out or cut off your name and address label. Of course you should read it before doing this. (smile)

Shipmate Richard Gary received his FRA 50 Year Service pin, which was pinned on by his wife Alice.



Richard and Alice Gary

Shipmate Secretary Martin (Woody) Wood received His 30 year membership pin, pinned by his wife, Julie, an FRA membership drive pin from FRA membership chairman Bob Washington and a certificate of appreciation from Branch 99. We all appreciate Woody's great service as our Branch Secretary.



"Woody" and Charlie

Lifetime membership awards for March and April could have been won by S/Ms Charles Miller and William Lilly, respectively, had they been present. One year memberships were won by S/Ms Ron Sybers, Ed Adams, Ron Mace and Gerald Jeffers. Fourteen restaurant free meal certificates were won at the March meeting and nineteen in April.



Welcome new Shipmate Willie Sartin

Regional President, East Coast, Del Herrmann visited our April Branch meeting. He said that he was impressed by our Branch and attendance at the meeting. He read the Initiation Ritual for new member Ron Daniels



S/M Ron Daniels receives the obligation.

FRA National President Jerry Sweeney will attend the May 9th General Membership meeting. That is also our election night. Here is another reason to attend the May meeting, vote and meet our National President. It seems that the word has spread that we have a great Branch and others want to come see for themselves. Be proud!

BRANCH 99 EXPANDS AREA SOQ PROGRAM SUPPORT

Continuing Branch 99 support of area Sailor of the Quarter programs, we have added a new command, the U.S. Coast Guard Integrated Support Command (ISC) in Portsmouth, to our list of supported commands. Their selectee is called the "ISC Enlisted Person of the Quarter." Shipmate President Charlie Baldwin made the first FRA presentation at a recent ceremony. The honored sailor was HS2 Deana M. Palmisano.



HS2 Palmisano and Charlie



Little Creek SOQ Travis Dean and S/M Ralph Preston

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Ed Adams sponsored a St. Patrick's Day dinner at the Branch Home on March 10, which was prepared by his wife, Shirley. The corned beef and cabbage dinner was a great success, both in attendees and the good food. The photos below indicate that everyone is enjoying the meal.



QUARTERDECK RENOVATION

The Branch Home quarterdeck has been undergoing a renovation for a few months. The task is nearly complete. Two recent additions were provided by S/MS Bob Long and David Cunningham. If you haven't been to the Branch Home lately you should stop by and see the great job done by our volunteer crew.



Bob Long and the Coast Guard cutter he donated.



David Cunningham with ship's wheel he donated.

SHIPMATES' FORUM

Shipmate Brian Bialas' daughter, Amber, a Dean's List student at UVA recently swam in the "200 Free Relay" in the NCAA championship meet in Minnesota, placing 21st in the nation. Her sister, Crystal, recently earned a 4.0 GPA in her first semester at TCC in Pre-School Child Development. Congratulations to both of them.