



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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The Prez Sez:

Shipmates:

“Mark your calendar.” Our next General Membership Meeting is on Wednesday, **12 May, 2010**. The proposed Annual Budget for Administrative Year 2010-2011 will be presented for approval. Also, nominations for Branch Officers, and Directors, will be closed, and voted on. This is your opportunity to vote for the candidate of your choice. And yes, it is also your opportunity to place your name on the ballot. Even if you choose not to run for Office, I encourage you to come to the meeting, and show your support for those who are seeking a leadership position.

Charlie

Election of Officers

Election of Officers will occur at the **May 12th** General Membership meeting. All positions are open this year with the exception of Branch Secretary. All

members are encouraged to submit nominations (or submit your own name for consideration). **Your Leadership** is needed for the next Association Year. Mark your calendar and ensure that you attend.

Up - Date Parking Lot and New Storage Facility

By **S/M Gapter**, Chairman, Board of Directors **FRA Corporate**

The New Storage Facility that is being built by Colonial Barns will commence construction not later than Monday 19 April 2010, Should be completed by 27 April 2010 Once the New Storage Facility is completed, the ConEx Box will be picked up and removed.

Due to the ever rising cost of items that may need to be accomplished as required by the City of Virginia Beach, the Board of Directors voted to table any further action until it was found out just what was going to be needed to be done to update the Branch 99 parking lot. However, after much discussion at the General Assembly meeting on 14 April 2010, it was voted to proceed with the Engineering Survey which will tell us just what is going to be needed to provided the parking area as we are needing and to improve the overall condition of the parking area.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation will provide new information to this Newsletter and the **FRA Web Site** concerning Parking Lot improvements as it occurs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership

New Members

A Warm Welcome to all new members of Branch **99**. Come to the next Branch meeting on May **12th** to meet your new Shipmates. Meetings are held at **1900** on the second Wednesday of each month. Please Check your calendar. If you come you may win a **free meal**.

Kenyon Alvarez, Jeffrey Baber, Adam Broussard, Maria Decena, Terrance Ferandors, Barry Glover, Robert Conklin, Tyrone Hardy, Kevin Higgins, Barry Mapp, Gregory Noyes, Amira Shock, Frederick Smith, Gregory Speller Daniel Stogner, Pamela Valery,

S/M Vice President Ed Rainey reported that there were **1,282** total members, transferred in **3**, transferred out **2**, **33** past due, **17** terminated, new join **13**.

- BINGO

S/M Norm Gapter reports that they are always in need of Bingo volunteers, especially in need of a "Caller". **S/M Gapter** also requested that a new Bingo Manager step forward because he may be unable to carry on.

- Budget and Finance

The Budget is balanced and the Branch is in Good Financial Shape.

A Two Bell Ceremony to Honor our Departed Shipmates was held by S/M Chaplain Adrian Knight and S/M MAA Dave Moser.

- GOOD OF THE ORDER.

- **S/M President Baldwin** presented a plaque in appreciation for their good works in the Branch to **S/M Charles E Hanner**, **S/M William A Washington**, **S/M Gilbert H Whitney** and **S/M Robert Patnaude**.

-**Master Chief Carter USCG** of the Little Creek Coast Guard Station spoke briefly about the mission and duties of Station Little Creek. Some of their duties are Escort, **SAR**, Boarding's and Homeland Security missions. Master Chief Carter also thanked the Branch for their support of the **SOQ** program at the Station Little Creek.

-Restaurants certificate drawing was held and **25** certificates were given out.

Drawings Held for

Lifetime Membership: Gilera Aristeo not present.)

One (1) Year membership: Shipmate Larry Qarrels

One (1) Year membership: Shipmate Paul Castlellano

4th of July Picnic will be Chaired by **S/M Dempsey** and **S/M Vice President Rainey**. **FYI** time is **1400-2100 on Sunday 04 July**.

Communications received from S/M Walt Hutchison re: Online Survey conducted by **FRA** Paraphrased for brevity:

‘ Primarily **FRA** is not recognized in the Active Navy general population. The only way to recruit more members is to advertise the Organization and how it benefits every Sailor. I have seen a few different programs effectively accomplishing this end, but most relied on the cooperation of Navy Exchanges allowing recruiting information at their entrances.

Branch **99** has done a Great Job in supporting area Base Awards Programs eg Sailor of the Quarter, etc. However, one Major Improvement would be to solicit Active Duty Presenters or recently Retired **FRA** Members. No small task, but should be pursued.

Branch **99** is only one of many and numerous other Branches are not affluent enough to buy plaques or trophies. If support could be obtained from **FRA HQ** other Branches near Bases could have similar Programs. Such funds could come from **FRA's** advertising Budget. Yes, I know

funds are limited, but I see this as a very probable good return on the investment.

Your (**FRA**) efforts in entering the Internet World are commendable.

Keep up your good work!!'

From Eileen Murphy **FRA HQ:**

Response to S/M Hutchison's letter.

' Thank you, I appreciate your input. We are always looking at ways to get the younger audience involved

I'm second to none in admiration for Branch **99** and Charlie Baldwin in particular. I think what they're doing is fantastic.

We launched a **Facebook** Page last Fall right before the Convention, and have nearly **1,000** "fans" on that today. **Facebook** offers a way to market to members by **age, employers, interest, etc** and we have a very successful advertising campaign through that which has garnered much attention and many new members..It's a start, but we continue to look for new ways. Input from dedicate Shipmates like you is always appreciated.

Thanks again,

Eileen'

-A Thank you letter from Joseph L Barnes for the Branch's endorsement as National Executive Director **FRA**

- Acknowledgement from **FRA** National Headquarters for the Branch's endorsement for Jeffery Gilmartin for National Vice President **FRA**.

- Acknowledgement from the **FRA** National Headquarters for the Branch's endorsement for James W Scarbro for National President **FRA**.

- Received a letter from the East Coast Region Mid-Year it will be held **27 -29 January 2011** at City Hotel and Bistro Greenville NC, see **S/M Wood** for any further info.

-Letter from the Social Security Administration

Change in Special Military Service Credits.

In January **2002**, Public law **107-117**, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the Special Extra Earnings that have been credited to Military Personnel. Military service in calendar year **2002** and future years no longer qualifies for these Special Extra Earnings credits.

Since **1957**, if you had Military Service earnings for Active Duty (including Active Duty for Training), you paid Social Security Taxes on those earnings. Since **1988**, Inactive Duty Service in the Armed Forces Reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security. Under certain circumstances, Special Extra Earnings for your Military Service from **1957** through **2001** can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These Extra Earnings Credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special Extra Earnings credits are granted for periods of Active Duty or Active Duty for Training. Special Extra Earnings credits are **NOT** granted for Inactive Duty Training.

If Your Active Military Service Occurred:

-From **1957** through **1967**, we will add the Extra Credit when you apply for Social Security Benefits.

-From **1968** through **2001**, you do not need to do anything to receive these Extra Credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

-After **2001**, there are **NO** Special Extra Earnings Credits for Military Service.

How you get Credit for Special Extra Earnings:

The information that follows applies only to Active Duty Military Service earnings from **1957** through **2001**. Here's how Special Extra Earnings are credited on your record.

Service in 1957 through 1977

You are credited with **\$300** in Additional Earnings for each Calendar Quarter in which you received Active Duty Basic Pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in Active Duty Basic Pay you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1200 a year. If you enlisted after **September 7, 1980**, and didn't complete at least **24** months of Active Duty or your Full Tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings.

Check with social security for details
Social Security Administration website:
<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

Coming Events:

09 May- Mother's Day
12 May- Branch Meeting
15 May- Armed Forces Day
30 May- Flea Market
30 May-Breakfast

09 Jun- Branch Meeting
14 Jun- Flag Day
20 Jun- Father's Day
27 Jun- Flea Market
27 Jun- Breakfast

04 Jul- Picnic (1400-2100) Y'all Come!!!

Local Restaurants Support FRA Branch 99

In a program initiated by our Branch President, Charlie Baldwin, local Restaurants are providing donations of dinner meal gift certificates to encourage attendance at monthly Branch General Membership meetings. These certificates are presented as prizes in drawings held at Branch meetings. The restaurants' support of our non-profit veterans association is greatly appreciated. Those that are currently participating are:

Aberdeen Barn Steak House
5805 Northampton Blvd. Va. Beach
ABUELO'S
1712 Ring Road, Chesapeake, VA 23320
Applebee's (Kempsville)
1426 Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach
Applebee's (Loehmann's Plaza)
4040 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach
Bubba's Deli & BBQ
3600 Dam Neck Road, Virginia Beach
Bubba's Crab House & Seafood

3323 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach
Carrabba's Italian Grill
1217 Battlefield Blvd. N. Chesapeake
Carrabba's Italian Grill
739 Lynnhaven Pkwy. Virginia Beach
Cheeseburger in Paradise
739 Lynnhaven Pkwy. Virginia Beach
Conklin's IRISH ROVER
3157 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach
Famous Uncle Al's Hot Dogs
3972 Holland Rd. Virginia Beach
Finn McCools Fish House & Tavern
3388 Princess Anne Rd. Virginia Beach
Jobi's' Pizza
4740 Baxter Road ~ Suite 109, Virginia Beach
Keagan's (Town Center)
244 Market St. Virginia Beach
Lynnhaven Fish House
2350 Starfish Rd. Virginia Beach
Max & Erma's
4512 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach
Ruby Tuesday
4488 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach
Smackwater Jack's
3333 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach
Texas Road House
1546 Sam's Circle, Chesapeake, Virginia
TGI Friday
796 Lynnhaven Pkwy. Virginia Beach, Virginia
TGI Friday
110 Volvo Pkwy. Chesapeake, Virginia
The Raven Restaurant
1200 Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach
Village Inn
313 Independence Blvd. Virginia Beach

The Support of these participating restaurants is appreciated, so when you are dining out, patronize them. And if you go to one of them with a free meal coupon, remember to tip the waiter for the full value of the check, before the discount. (He/ She is working hard for a living and is not the one donating the free meal.) Remember to thank the manager.

Other Merchants supporting this program are:
R K Chevrolet
2661 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach
Freedom Automotive
North Military Hwy. Norfolk, VA.

Sunken Super-Subs Located

The remains of Two Lost High-Tech Japanese Submarines sunk by the U.S. Navy near Hawaii in **1946** were located by American researchers in late **2009**. Nicknamed “**Samurai Subs**”, the two newly discovered boats - shot down to prevent the technology from reaching the Soviets- were among a Fleet of **Five** Super Submarines.

One of the vessels, called **I-14** was the Largest Non-nuclear Submarine ever built, could sail the Globe **1.5** times without refueling and was designed to launch Folding Wing Bombers on Kamikaze Missions against New York City, Washington, **DC** and the Panama Canal. The other vessel, the **I-201**, was an Attack Submarine thought to be Twice as fast as American Subs.

Fortunately for the United States, none of these so-called Super Subs had the chance to execute stealth missions against the U.S. Mainland or Critical Targets in the Pacific during the War.

“This is one of the more Significant Marine Heritage findings in recent years” Dr. Hans Van Tilburg of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries said in a statement. “These Submarines are **60** year old Time Capsules offering firsthand insight into a Military Technology that was far ahead of its time”
Excerpted from an article on the History Channel

Humor Section

Military Service Compared- WW-II and Today

1945- rifles were made of wood and steel, shot a **.30** caliber bullet that killed the enemy

Now- rifles are made of plastic and aluminum, shoot a **.22** caliber bullet that wounds the enemy

1945- if you smoked, you an ashtray on your desk

Now- if you smoke, you are sent outside and are treated like a leper.

1945- you were taught to aim at your enemy and shoot him

Now- you spray **500** bullets into the brush, don’t hit anything and retreat because you’re out of ammo

1945- Victory was declared when the enemy was dead and all his things were broken.

Now- Victory is declared when the enemy says he’s sorry

Military Common Sense Rules.

-Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons (General MacArthur)

-Any Ship can be a Minesweeper.....once. (Admiral Hornblower)

-Cluster Bombing from **B-52’s** is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the Ground (U.S. Air Force)

-Tracers work both ways (U.S. Army Ordnance)

-Sometimes I think war is God’s way of teaching us geography (Paul Rodriguez)

Air Force/Navy Joint Operations



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March-April 2010

Recruiting new members is a never-ending requirement for a successful Branch.

Printer - Please insert **NEW FRA** Membership application attached
And **RETAIN** for future use