



# 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](http://www.fra99.com)

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### **BRANCH 99 VETERANS' MEMORIAL TO BE DEDICATED ON NOVEMBER 11**

Following the Veterans' Day parade Branch 99 will dedicate a new memorial stone in the Virginia Beach Veterans' Memorial Park in honor of all sea service veterans. The ceremony will be very brief, but of great significance, as another memorial from the FRA is not likely in our lifetimes.

Your presence at this ceremony will be of great significance.

You are encouraged to march or ride in the parade as part of the FRA group of Hampton Roads Branches. Report to the Branch about 0800 for transportation to the parade or meet the group on Atlantic Avenue below 16<sup>th</sup> street. We are assigned parade position 44. Come out and support your Branch 99. If you have never marched before you will be amazed at the support offered by the parade audience.

### **FAITHFUL DEDICATED SERVICE**

Awards and rewards come and go, but how do you reward someone who takes it upon herself to visit the Branch Home very early, every Friday morning with an armload of fresh donuts for the morning coffee crowd? This someone is Cathi Chiari who just happens to be the daughter of our Branch 99 president. The coffee crowd wants to publicly thank Cathi for

her dedication and perseverance. Cathi, you already know your efforts are appreciated, but here is a public and heartfelt "thank you" from Branch 99.



CATHI, THE DONUT LADY

### **BRANCH HOME RENOVATION**

As you peruse this issue work is underway on the expansion of our Branch Home. The major reason for this expansion is to provide storage space for the meeting hall tables and chairs. As the storage space will be immediately next to the hall less effort will be required for this task. Remember, the volunteers who move this furniture are not your typical 'teenagers.' This expansion will allow much more room on our quarterdeck so we can "dress it up."

## MEMBERSHIP

### **New Member Report**

Welcome all new members to Branch 99. Come to the next Branch meeting on November 8th to meet your new shipmates. Meetings are held at 1900 on the second Wednesday of each month.

**For August 2006:** Michael Cleveland; Felix Jimenez; Ronald A. Martin; Jeffery S. Ryan; Roberto Sierra

**For September 2006:** Bobbie H. Holt; Kris v. Kumaroo; Benny Lebon; Don M. Montgomery; John Sobolosky; Thomas M. Ziemba

**Past Due:** Shipmates, we have a large number of members who have not paid their dues, as well as some terminated for non-payment. The National FRA organization is working to keep or improve your benefits just as a union would do. No other organization is as effective in protecting your future. It is important that you send in your dues to help continue this support.

## TAPS

### **IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED THE SUPREME COMMANDER**

Bainbridge, James A.	MR1	USN	RET
Cremin, Raymond J.	EMCS	USN	RET
Quinto, Delphino F.	AK1	USN	RET
Richmeier, William J.	AEC	USN	RET
Siebels, Eugene T.	DKC	USN	RET

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tuesday – November 7, 2006, Election Day. Since 1845, the Tuesday after the first Monday of November has been designated as Election Day for the U.S. President and for congressional positions. Why this day of all days to hold an election? In the 1800's, November came after the crop growers' harvesting season. Election Day couldn't be the first Monday since this was All Saint's Day, a holy day of obligation for Roman Catholics to attend church. Tuesday was picked

because people went to church on Sunday and traveled to the polling place on Monday. If you are a registered voter, meaning that you are a U.S. citizen and a resident in your voting district who is at least 18 years old, not convicted of a felony and mentally competent by law, please cast your ballot for the candidate and issues of your choice. Remember, Shipmates, that you solemnly swore before the Supreme Commander to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, when you either enlisted or accepted a commission to serve your country! The U.S. Constitution gives you the right to vote, and your ballot and the purple thumbs of countless Iraqis show that democracy is alive and well today. God bless!

Tor Evasco



Shipmates;

Looking up at the wall in my computer room, I was amazed at what my "Time Measuring Chart," better known to the many as a calendar, was telling me how little time we have before the turn of the year.

We have had a busy year9 so far, and here's a bit of what's coming up. Of course you all know of the 11 November, 2006 Veterans Day Parade. Don't forget the Memorial Plaque dedication that Branch 99 will be making immediately following the parade in The Veterans Memorial Park. This is a "Once in a life time dedication," An historical event that will live on "In memory of our departed Shipmates."

Also around the corner is the Branch Christmas Party. Arrangements for both of these events are well underway. What are your plans?

Charlie

## COMING EVENTS

There will be NO BRANCH 99 BREAKFASTS in November or December.

November 4, Saturday 0900 Retiree seminar at Bldg. C-9 (Old theater building) Naval Station. Updated information and free flu shots as available.

November 8, Wednesday 0800 Maintenance day at the Branch Home. Come out and help Meet some of the dedicated regular volunteers. They will appreciate your help.

November 8, Wednesday 1900 Branch 99 General Membership Meeting.

November 11, Saturday 0900 Veterans' Day Parade at the oceanfront. Also, Branch 99 Veterans' Memorial Stone dedication. Plan to march in the parade and attend the dedication at the end of the parade. It is VERY important for Branch 99 to have a large turnout. Historically we have had only 6 to 10 marching members. Let's all turn out and be surprised at the support you will receive from the curbside audiences. Meet at the Branch Home no later than 0830. A sad fact is that some small towns have cancelled their Veterans' Day parades due to a lack of participation. It could happen here if we don't maintain the necessary support.

November 17-19. The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be at Mount Trashmore. Pay your respects to those who honorably served.

December 1 and 2, Friday and Saturday. Branch 99 information booth at Little Creek NEX. See Jim Griffin or call him at 497-6809 to sign up for a few hours. Let's show our presence to the active duty and retired community.

December 13, Wednesday Branch 99 Christmas Party at the Roma Lodge. Social hour at 1800. A Pollyanna gift exchange will be conducted for those desiring to participate. Recommended cost of gifts is \$10.00 to \$15.00. Sale of tickets is planned to start

1 November at the Branch Home. Cost will be \$5.00 for members and spouses and \$7.00 for outside guests.

We hope to see you there.

## **LOCAL RESTAURANTS SUPPORT BRANCH 99 MEMBERSHIP**

In a program initiated by our Branch President, Charlie Baldwin, local restaurants are providing donations of 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 that are 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  
**BONEFISH GRILL** 3333 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, Va. 23455  
**Bravo Cusina Italiana** 193 Central Park Ave. Virginia Beach, Va. 23462  
**Carrabba's Italian Grill** 1217 Battlefield Blvd. N, Chesapeake, Va 23320  
**C & M Cafeteria** 737 Independence Blvd. Virginia Beach, Va 23455  
**IHOP Kempsville** 1316 Fordham Dr. Virginia Beach, Va. 23464  
**Keagan's Restaurant** 244 Market Street, Virginia Beach, Va. 23462  
**Kelly's Tavern** 4586 Va. Beach Blvd. Virginia. Beach, Va. 23462  
**Max & Erma's Pembroke** 4512 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  
(Cont. on page 4)

## KNOW YOUR SHIPMATE



Francis "Frank" Pogue

Frank is one of our longtime FRA members, having received his 50 Year membership pin. He was born in Fredericktown, Missouri in February 1925. During the Second World War he went to St. Louis to enlist at the age of (almost) eighteen. Even though he enlisted in the Navy he attended boot camp and signalman school in Farragut, Idaho.

In October 1943 he was assigned to the USS Perry (DMS-17), a destroyer mine sweeper, in which he served until it was sunk by a mine at the Pacific Island of Palau in September 1944. He earned battle stars at Kwajalein, Aitape New Guinea, Saipan, Tinian and Palau. After his rescue he had temporary duty in USS Cleveland (CL-55) en-route to the Navy Receiving Station at Treasure Island, CA.

He was then assigned to the USS Steinaker (DD-863). During a seven year tour his rating was changed to Quartermaster and he made Chief. In 1952 he reported for staff duty at COMCORTON 12 in the USS Woodson (DE-359) out of Newport, Rhode Island. It was during this tour that he married Ethel. From there he was assigned to shore duty in Brooklyn, NY at the Radio Instructor School. From there he became a recruiter in Newark, NJ. He then put the USS Grant County (LST-1174 in commission. In July 1960 he became a recruiting instructor at Bainbridge MD. He earned an LDO commission during this tour and was assigned to the USS Lindenwald (LSD6) as the Navigator. This was the mother

ship for the Alvin and Illuminate, during the search off the coast of Spain for a lost atomic bomb.

As a LT he was next assigned as OIC of the Branch Oceanographic Office in Norfolk. Then he became the Navigator in the USS LaSalle (LPD-3) out of Norfolk. His final tour was as a Ship-Shore Operations instructor in the Amphibious School, Little Creek from which he retired April 1, 1973.

He attended Old Dominion University for three years for a degree in secondary education. After teaching junior high school in Norfolk for two years and not enjoying it he quit and became self employed as a designer and builder of custom furniture until 1987.

Frank and Ethel had two girls, Kim and Chris, both of whom chose military careers. Chris retired from the Navy as an HM1 and is attending college locally. Kim retired from the Army Reserves and is a Pharmacist Assistant in Christiansburg, VA. Frank keeps busy writing and wood-working. We wish him well.

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**Ruth's Chris Steak House** 205 Central Park Ave. 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

**Waterman's Beachwood Grill** 415 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Va. 23451

We appreciate the support of these restaurants, so when you are dining out, patronize them. 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 a free meal.) Remember to thank the manager on your way out on behalf of the Kempsville Branch, FRA.

## NOTES FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

13 September and 11 October 2006

Thank you letters were received from SMs Sweeney and Boudreaux for our endorsements of them in the National President and Vice President elections respectively.

The Americanism/Patriotism packages have been distributed and S/M Cindy Hefty, the chairman, has already received 81 essays.

The Branch Christmas party is planned. See the Coming Events column for details.

SM Jim Griffin reported that Bingo is doing well.

Two Bell Ceremonies were held in honor of shipmates Franklin Hubbard, Melvin Newell, Delphino Quinto, Jack Helsley, Ashley Wilson and Richard Walsh. The Branch Charter was draped in memory of Past National President Stan Nahil.

SM/President Baldwin's restaurant program has been in operation six months and has been very successful. As of October 21 restaurants were participating.

Neither Shipmate Parrish nor Spicer were present when their names were drawn for lifetime memberships. S/Ms Gerald Hyatt, Harry Millett, Ed Adams and Juan Mangosing won one-year memberships.

Branch 99 is in good fiscal shape.

Work has started on the addition to the building to provide storage room for the meeting hall furniture.

Night rental manager volunteers are needed to oversee rentals to non-members. Just give your phone number to Joe Porambo or Norm Gapter. They will call you when needed, with plenty of advance notice. You only need do this when you are available. One or two nights a month would be a big help.



S/M Gary Underwood receives his 10 year pin.  
S/M Francis Lang receives a certificate of appreciation from President Baldwin

### BRANCH 99 CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SAILOR OF THE QUARTER PROGRAMS AT LOCAL BASES.

S/M Ralph Preston once again served as Branch 99 representative to present awards to Sailors of the Quarter at Little Creek.



S/M Ralph Preston presents awards

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Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1900 hours.