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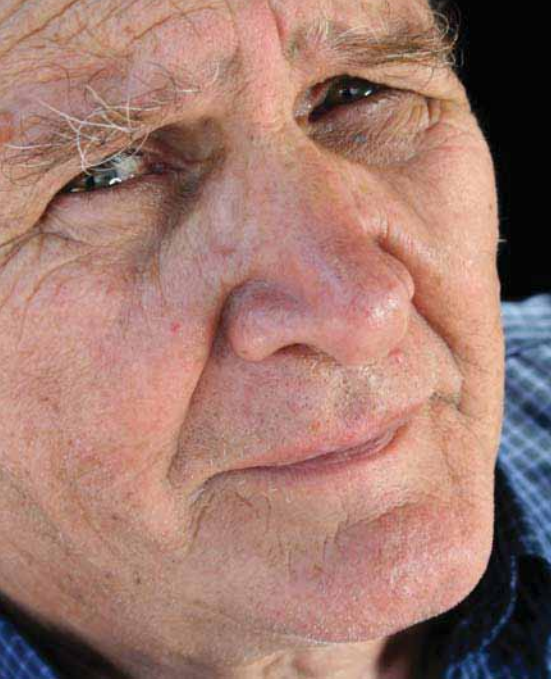
Honor Flights

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Featured

16 HONOR FLIGHTS

Honor Flight Network works to ensure every surviving WWII veteran has the opportunity to visit the memorial erected in their honor in Washington, D.C. Learn how you can personally thank members of the “Greatest Generation.”

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TOGETHER WE SERVED
NO STRONGER BOND

LOYALTY, PROTECTION AND SERVICE

FRA IS A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR CURRENT AND FORMER ENLISTED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD ON CAPITOL HILL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FRA.ORG OR CALL 800-FRA-1924.

ON THE COVER

Honor Flight Network has flown more than 81,000 veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam to see the memorials built to honor their suffering and sacrifice.

Keeping Connected



Eileen Murphy

IN THIS MONTH'S FEATURE article, Lauren Armstrong describes the connection and camaraderie that the Honor Flights bring for many WWII veterans. On page 13, there is a short article on Together We Served creating lasting legacies for our veterans. These two articles share an important aspect — we must honor those who served and keep their memories alive for future generations. Both of these organizations are doing tremendous work and we salute their efforts!

It struck me as I was reading these articles that FRA shares similar traits. The Association honors the service of our enlisted personnel by fighting for their pay, benefits and quality of life issues on Capitol Hill. Congress searches for budgets to cut in tough economic times, and as explained in the NED Perspective (page 5) the looming threats to military entitlement programs are serious, thereby making FRA's more urgent and important than ever before. FRA also works to help shipmates stay in contact with each other through branch memberships, by offering free reunion postings and "Looking For" columns, by having a vibrant Facebook presence (www.fra.org/fb is a shortcut) and Twitter feeds (@frahq) and by offering online communities.

The common theme, of course, is participation. Be engaged in FRA to maximize your representation on Capitol Hill. Request *Communicate With Your Elected Officials* — a guide to communicating with members of Congress — by calling 1-800-FRA-1924 and asking Member Services staff to send one to you. Sign up for *NewsBytes*, our weekly legislative e-mail update by e-mailing newsbytes@fra.org with "subscribe" in the subject line and your name and address in the body of the e-mail. If you prefer to hear *NewsBytes* read to you over the phone, call 1-800-FRA-1924 and dial extension 112.

The Action Center on www.fra.org is another great way to be connected to Congress and make your opinion heard. Your grassroots advocacy has a direct influence on the Association's ability to effectively represent your concerns before Congress and appropriate federal agencies. Please take the time to send a message to your elected officials. You are welcome to use one of the prewritten letters on the Action Center or compose your own. In addition, you can take advantage of some of the other resources such as the "Elected Officials," "Election," "Issues" and "Media" pages, all of which provide opportunities to learn and be involved.

FRA is a great organization dedicated to helping shipmates be heard on important issues. The more active you are — the louder your voice is heard on Capitol Hill.

Eileen Murphy is the Director of Marketing and Communications and serves as the Managing Editor of *FRA Today*. Please contact her at eileen@fra.org.

FRA today

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Spending Priorities

THE QUEST TO SIGNIFICANTLY cut federal spending continues and there's a strong probability that the stand-off in Congress will also continue, at least until after the November 2012 elections. Developing a spending plan acceptable to both the House of Representatives (controlled by Republicans) and the United States Senate (controlled by Democrats) won't come easy.

When the so-called Super Committee failed last fall to identify federal spending cuts of at least \$1.2 trillion over the next decade, provisions of the Budget Control Act of 2011 "triggered" mandatory budget cuts (sequestration). With this as background, a new strategic guidance plan for the Department of Defense — entitled "Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense" — outlines new guidance on national defense and security policies based in large part on significantly reduced future defense budgets.

The plan cites the primary missions of the U.S. Armed Forces, a changing global security environment and principles that will guide associated future force and program changes. One of the principles (the fourth) declares the need to reduce the "cost of doing business" and states, "As DoD takes steps to reduce its manpower costs, to include reductions in the growth of compensation and health care costs, we will keep faith with those who serve." (Missing is any reference to commitments to those who served in the past; however, I digress.)

We'll know more about how this vision translates into specific proposals, including changes to all-important compensation and benefit programs, when the Administration's 2013 Budget is sent to Capitol Hill early

this month. Various oversight committees in both bodies will conduct hearings on these matters during the Second Session of the 112th Congress, which convened on January 17, 2012, and it's important to remember that Congress has the final say on legislative proposals.

What we do know is that future spending on national defense as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) will be reduced despite significant continuing war-related expenses and extensive operational and national security commitments.

Writing about the plan in *USA Today*, Tom Vandenbrook, Jim Michaels and Aamer Madhani said, "The previous peak in U.S. defense spending was an inflation-adjusted \$517 billion in 1985. It fell in real terms the next 15 years but jumped after the 9/11 attacks, growing an average 4.4 percent annually. Fifty years ago, defense spending was 47 percent of total federal spending. Today, it accounts for 19 percent, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget."

A *Washington Post* editorial notes that during President Eisenhower's tenure in office, "Defense spending represented more than 9 percent of U.S. gross domestic product. Under Mr. Obama's plan it would drop from about 4.5 percent to under 3 percent. Meanwhile, other than cuts to finance the new entitlements in his healthcare bill, the president has yet to propose meaningful trims in the exploding costs of entitlements such as Medicare, which did not exist during Mr. Eisenhower's presidency."

Further, *Wall Street Journal* editorial writers noted, "Taken altogether, the (defense) budget could shrink by over 30 percent in the next decade. The



Joe Barnes

Administration projects outlays at 2.7 percent of GDP in 2021, down from 4.5 percent last year (which included the cost of Iraq and Afghanistan). That would put U.S. outlays at 1940 levels — a bad year. As recently as 1986, a better year, the U.S. spent 6.2 percent of GDP on defense with no detrimental economic impact. What's different now? The growing entitlement state. The Administration is making a political choice and sparing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which are set to hit nearly 11 percent of GDP (without healthcare reform costs) by 2020."

Make no mistake about the importance of these entitlement programs; however, DoD and VA benefits are also important and essential to maintaining the All Volunteer Force and our national security. That said, the outlook is bleak for sustaining significant healthcare, pay and benefits enhancements enacted since 2000. These programs are already being targeted for major reform and are expected to come under even greater scrutiny in the future. FRA's challenges in sustaining these programs will be even greater if sequestration is implemented and military and veterans programs become even lower priorities. It's more important than ever to communicate concerns to your U.S. representative and senators on these and other priority issues in the coming month.

Joe Barnes is FRA's National Executive Director and Chairman of the National Committee on Legislative Service and a member of the Special Committee on Future Strategic Planning. A member of Navy Department Branch 181, he is also an advisor to the National Committees on Budget and Finance and Membership and Retention.

Agent Orange Exposure

I retired from the U.S. Navy with 22 years active service, including four shipboard deployments to Vietnam. From January 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975, Agent Orange (dioxin) was used in Vietnam as a defoliate and presumptive exposure to the dioxin may have caused a variety of illnesses to those serving in the combat zone. In some cases, those service members who had “boots on the ground” and were infected by Agent Orange receive VA compensation for their [service-related] disabilities.

Most Navy veterans who served onboard Naval ships within the coastal waters, but didn't have boots on the ground, are not eligible for VA compensation. Sea water was distilled into fresh water [aboard these ships] and this fresh water was consumed and used for bathing by ships personnel. It is presumed the dioxin contaminated the drinking water and our government and the VA is in denial of this as presumptive exposure.

Anyone who served onboard ship in Vietnam combat zones and has an illness related to Agent Orange exposure, take note. I urge you to write to your respective members of Congress and ask why we are not recognized.

Presently, there is a House bill (H.R. 812) [that would eliminate the boots-on-the-ground restriction], but no action has been taken. We served with pride and honor, without questioning our jobs in time of war. We deserve equality.

John J. Bury

FRA Response: *FRA strongly supports H.R. 812, as well as companion legislation (S. 1629) recently introduced by Senators Kristin Gillibrand (N.Y.) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.). (See page 9 for details.) Both measures seek to reverse the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) decision that currently prevents “Blue Water” military retirees and veterans from claiming presumptive status for the diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. Please visit the Action Center at www.fra.org to contact your senators and representative to ask for their support for S. 1629 and H.R. 812, respectively.*

Burial Flags

In response to the letter by Ron Clawson [*FRA Today*, December 2011], there are certainly other options than destroying burial flags if they are not in the possession of the immediate family of the deceased veteran.

Locally (Southwest Oregon), through some very hard work by several veteran organizations, there is a project to line a road with flag pole holders (cement insets) in the sidewalk and along the road from the city of Eagle Point, Ore., to the Eagle Point National Cemetery. Flag poles were



bought by those organizations and burial flags were donated. They are flown every Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other appropriate national holidays. This project is an ongoing effort and is a most impressive display, especially with the knowledge that every flag flying represents a deceased local veteran.

I agree with Shipmate Clawson that proper respect should be shown for the special meaning that these flags symbolize. I encourage you to attempt to try to find an alternative that is appropriate in your area.

Ron Smith

Our American Legion Post properly flies these burial flags in honor of the deceased veteran, at the request of the family. When they become weathered and unserviceable, they are properly disposed of at one of our flag disposal ceremonies. There are many veteran organizations that will properly retire these burial flags.

Chuck Cooney

FRA Response: *Many FRA branches also collect worn and unserviceable flags throughout the year and have annual flag retirement ceremonies, either as a branch event or in conjunction with other military and veteran organizations within their community.*

Military Retirement

I am very much opposed to the elimination or change in the current retirement system. However I do believe that the idea of a 401(k) type plan should be considered for those members who are forced out by the government early or are otherwise unable to complete 20 or more years because of hardships. Take the case of the person who has 15 years in service when he is compelled to get out to take care of a family business due to a death of the principal of the business. Or the member who feels he must get out to save his marriage of many years when he has 18 or 19 years already complete. How about the officers who have been forced out because of two times passed over? How about special consideration for those forced out for medical reasons, but not provided with some sort of compensation.

Such provisions would need to be carefully worded so that early options are not readily available to all, but could be applicable where warranted and approved by higher authority.

Bud Harris

Submissions: Send *Shipmate Forum* letters to: Editor, *FRA Today*, 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail submissions may be sent to fratoday@fra.org. Please include “Shipmate Forum” in the subject line. FRA reserves the right to select and edit letters for publication. Letters published in *Shipmate Forum* reflect the opinions and views of FRA members. They do not necessarily reflect the official position of FRA as a whole. FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content.

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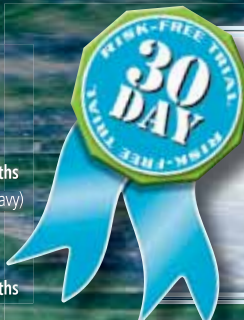
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John Davis

Challenges for FRA in 2012

THE SECOND SESSION OF the 112th Congress convened in January and your FRA Legislative Team is working to promote the Association's extensive 2012 legislative agenda. (See January 2012 *FRA Today* to view the full agenda.) FRA's advocacy efforts this year are focused on protecting the hard-earned benefits the Association has fought for, particularly those gained since 2000, and the FRA Legislative Team will work to make improvements to programs that impact shipmates and their families. With the military out of Iraq and the winding down of its involvement in Afghanistan, the defense budget will continue to shrink in 2013 and beyond. Further, unless amended, the Budget Control Act (BCA) will force DoD and Congress to slash future budgets or reductions will happen automatically through the sequestration process. (See story below on sequestration.)

Eliminating the military retirement system and replacing it with a 401(k)-style program, prohibiting retirement benefits until age 60, denying TRICARE Prime coverage to retirees, and drastic increases in TRICARE co-pays and

enrollment fees are just a few of the ongoing threats to military pay and benefits. These are prime examples of why current and former service members should join and support FRA's efforts.

Congress will undoubtedly consider cuts in other benefits for military personnel, retirees, veterans and survivors in conjunction with the new military strategy announced at a recent Pentagon news conference. Competition to fund weapons technology costs and people programs (bullets vs. benefits) will intensify and we expect continued efforts to shift personnel costs to beneficiaries.

Congress responds to constituent groups that are organized and shipmates communicating regularly with their elected officials strengthen FRA's legislative advocacy efforts. The FRA Action Center, available at www.fra.org, is an effective and user-friendly method to communicate with your elected officials. The Action Center provides pre-written messages either supporting or opposing legislation that shipmates can edit and send to their elected officials in Washington.

Your Voice Makes a Difference

Grassroots advocacy has a direct influence on the Association's ability to effectively represent your concerns before Congress and appropriate federal agencies. Calendar year 2011 was a banner year for members using the FRA Action Center, with shipmates sending more than 43,000 e-mail messages to members of Congress. Usage of the Action Center has increased nearly tenfold since the program was launched in 2005.

Take Defense Out of Sequestration

Because the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (a.k.a. the Super Committee) failed to reach an agreement on how to trim \$1.2 trillion from the federal budget, the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) mandates that automatic cuts (sequestration) must take effect beginning on January 1, 2013. These programmed deductions will come equally from Defense and non-Defense accounts.

To address rising concern about maintaining our national defense, Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (Calif.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, introduced the "Down Payment to Protect National Security Act" (H.R. 3662) that would amend

the BCA to exclude the Department of Defense (DoD) from the first year of sequestration (2013).

FRA supports this legislation, particularly in light of the fact that DoD is already identifying more than \$450 billion in budget cuts over the next 10 years. Requiring an additional \$500 billion to \$600 billion in reductions required through sequestration could endanger not only national security, but also essential military pay and benefit programs, and negatively impact recruiting, retention and overall military readiness.

Members are urged to use FRA's Action Center (www.fra.org) to ask their U.S. representative to support this important legislation.

Agent Orange Bill Introduced



USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) as seen from USS *Perkins* (DD-877) in July 1966, westbound at the start of her second Vietnam War cruise. (Photo from www.navsource.org)

Representative Christopher Gibson (N.Y.) introduced legislation (H.R. 3612) that extends the presumption for service-connected disability for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange to include the "territorial seas" of the country. If enacted, the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" would provide a VA presumption for Vietnam vets who suffer from ailments associated with exposure to the herbicide during the Vietnam War, even if they didn't have boots on the ground, as is the current requirement.

An Institute of Medicine (IOM) report released in May 2011 validated a 2002 Royal Australian Navy report that demonstrates the desalinization process used on Australian and U.S. Navy ships actually magnified the dioxin concentration in the drinking and bathing water used aboard vessels that served off the coast of Vietnam.

FRA believes Congress should recognize that these so-called "Blue Water" veterans were exposed to Agent Orange herbicide and authorize presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with this exposure.

Shipmates are urged to use the Action Center at www.fra.org to contact their U.S. Representatives on this legislation and its companion Senate legislation (the "Agent Orange Equity Act," S. 1629), which is almost identical to the House bill.

Senate Panel Discusses Veteran Mental Health Access

A recent Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing focused on the long wait for mental healthcare at some Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities across the country. The hearing comes at a time when as many as 18 veterans are committing suicide daily and Committee Chair Patty Murray (Wash.) questioned VA survey results that revealed many veterans wait far longer than the VA's mandated 14-day window to see a physician. The survey indicated that 70 percent of providers said they did not have adequate staff or space to meet the mental healthcare needs of the veterans, and 46 percent of respondents said the lack of off-hour appointments prevented veterans from accessing care. Murray pointed out that 33,000 more troops are returning from Afghanistan next year and demands on the VA mental health program will only increase.

Ranking Member Senator Richard Burr (N.C.) expressed disappointment with the VA mental health program even though the program funding has increased by 136 percent and staffing has increased by 47 percent since FY 2006. Burr explained that 70 to 80 percent of Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) patients will recover if they get adequate and timely treatment. After hearing testimony on the long waits and bureaucratic mismanagement, the committee called for an investigation and audit of the VA mental health program.

FRA Commemorates 70th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Attacks

FRA National President Jeff Gilmartin attended events in Hawaii honoring those lost and injured in the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Ewa Field on December 7, 1941.

FRA National Vice President Mark Kilgore attended a USS *Arizona* commemoration event, sponsored by FRA Branches 77 and 163, at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He and his wife, FRA Auxiliary Regional Vice President Southeast Babe Kilgore, also attended FRA Branch 290's Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony on board the USS *Underwood* (FFG-36) in Atlantic Beach, Fla.

FRA branches around the country also hosted events to honor the 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, preserving the memory of those who served and died.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mark Logico

The guided-missile destroyer USS *Chung-Hoon* (DDG 93) conducts a pass-in-review during the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. Five thousand guests, including 125 Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII veterans, attended the National Park Service and U.S. Navy-hosted joint memorial ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

HEALTHCARE ISSUES

Walgreens Leaves TRICARE Pharmacy Network

As of December 31, 2011, Walgreens drug stores are no longer part of the TRICARE pharmacy network under Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI), the company that processes TRICARE pharmacy claims. TRICARE beneficiaries filling prescriptions at Walgreens and its subsidiaries, Duane Reade and Happy Harry's pharmacies, must now pay 100 percent of the cost upfront and then file a paper claim for non-network benefit reimbursement, which will dramatically increase out-of-pocket costs.

Other retail pharmacy options include CVS, Rite Aid, Walmart and Safeway stores and some smaller local pharmacies. This is a good time to consider TRICARE Home Delivery, a service that offers mail-order delivery of medications with lower or no copays.

For more information on retail pharmacies and the Home Delivery program, visit <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>

Another Temporary Doc Fix

In December 2010 Congress approved a one-year extension of current Medicare/TRICARE reimbursement rates for healthcare providers who see Medicare and TRICARE patients (Public Law No: 111-309). As a result, scheduled rate cuts of 27.4 percent were delayed from taking effect until January 1, 2012.

As the deadline approached, the House passed the "Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act" (H.R. 3630) that provided an additional two-year extension for the Medicare/TRICARE reimbursement rate, along with a one-year extension of a Social Security payroll tax, and other programs that were also set to expire January 1, 2012. In December 2011, the Senate amended the bill to extend the so-called "Doc Fix" and payroll tax for only two months and adjourned for the holidays.

The House initially rejected the Senate amendment and called for a conference committee to determine a compromise, but growing pressure from constituents led to both chambers passing the two-month extension (H.R. 3765) by unanimous consent. The President immediately signed the legislation into law.

Each time the enactment deadline is extended, the level of the proposed reimbursement-rate cuts gets deeper. In early 2010, the cumulative reduction was cited at 21 percent; by the end of the year, the cuts were predicted to be closer to 23 percent. Implementing the cuts, which are now at more than 27 percent, will be a costly proposition. According to Tom Philpott's *Military Update* column (12-29-2011, available at www.fra.org) the American Medical Association estimates it would have cost \$48 billion to enact the cuts in 2005, but predicts the cost to be more than \$300 billion if enacted on January 1, 2012.

As the new February 29th deadline draws near, we can again expect another bitter partisan struggle to find spending offsets to pay for further extensions or enact a permanent resolution to the issue. FRA continues to work toward a bipartisan middle ground that will resolve the Doc Fix once and for all.

FY 2012 NDAA

Congress finally completed work on FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, H.R. 1540) and President Obama signed the legislation in late December. The legislation addresses many issues impacting FRA members and their families, including:

- Limiting TRICARE Prime annual enrollment fee increases to \$2.50 a month for individuals and \$5.00 a month for families, with future adjustments tied to the inflation rate associated with military retirement pay;
- Eliminating pharmacy co-pays for generic medications received via TRICARE's Home Delivery system, and increasing retail pharmacy co-pays;
- Requiring beneficiaries enrolled in the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan after September 30, 2012, to switch to TRICARE-for-Life (TFL) when they become Medicare-eligible;
- Authorizing a 1.6-percent pay raise for active duty and Reserve personnel;
- Reducing Navy end strength;
- Providing mental health assessments for the Reserve Component personnel during unit training;
- Authorizing separation incentives to minimize the impact of involuntary separations;
- Prohibiting denial of re-enlistment for a service member determined by a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) to be fit for duty, but subsequently determined to be unsuitable for service;
- Expanded authority for lodging accommodations for enlisted personnel assigned to pre-commissioning units at Naval shipyards;
- Halting significant cuts to military music programs; and
- Creating statutory framework for oversight of Arlington National Cemetery.

Two key amendments were dropped during conference committee deliberations. The first was a Senate-approved amendment sponsored by Sen. Bill Nelson (Fla.) to end the deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities when the service member's death is service-connected. The other was an amendment expanding concurrent receipt of full military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all disabled retirees, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.).

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House Panel Examines Military Mortuary

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform notified Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta that the committee will review allegations of mishandling remains of service members killed in action (KIA). The Dover Air Force Base Mortuary handles the remains of KIAs returning home and the investigation is in response to an Air Force Inspector General report that found "gross mismanagement" at the mortuary, and a *Washington Post* article that indicated that the mortuary had inappropriately disposed of KIA cremated remains in a landfill.

The FRA Legislative Team continues to monitor this issue to ensure that the remains of service members are treated with the dignity and honor they deserve.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Desiree D. Green

Sailors and Marines carry a casket during a burial at sea ceremony for three U.S. Navy veterans aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41). Gulf of Aden, Aug. 22, 2011.

ACTIVE DUTY/RESERVE ISSUES

BAH Rates for 2012

The Department of Defense released the 2012 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates. The average increase for military personnel is two percent, but individual BAH rates will vary widely. BAH provides uniformed service members equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets when government quarters are not provided, and varies by geographic duty location, pay grade, and dependency status. Post-9/11 GI Bill housing stipends provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) are also tied to BAH rates.

The new rates for military personnel took effect on January 1, 2012, and the VA adjusted housing stipends for GI Bill beneficiaries become effective on February 1, 2012.

To determine the new BAH for your area, use the BAH calculator at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>

To learn more about the new rates, read Tom Philpott's syndicated Military Update column (12-15-2011), available at www.fra.org.

House and Senate Pass Measures that Impact Shipmates

The House passed two measures that impact FRA members including the "Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of The Armed Forces Act" (H.R. 1801), sponsored by Rep. Chip Cravaack (Minn.). The measure requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement a plan for expedited airport security screenings for service members (and their families) traveling on official orders while in uniform. The Senate approved the bill with a technical amendment and the House gave final approval by voice vote. The bill became public law (P.L. 112-086) in early January.

Additionally, President Obama signed the "National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act" (P.L. 112-064). The measure (H.R. 2192), sponsored by Rep. Steve Cohen (Tenn.), extends provisions protecting certain members of the Reserve Component from bankruptcy proceedings beyond December 31, 2011, when the existing provisions were due to expire. The protections now extend through 2015.

FRA Weighs In on Stolen Valor Act

FRA signed on to a Friend of the Court (Amicus) brief for the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case *United States v. Alvarez*, which will decide whether Congress has the constitutional authority to prohibit people from lying about their military awards and decorations.

The "Stolen Valor Act" was enacted in 2005, prohibiting anyone from falsely claiming military decorations or medals. Xavier Alvarez, a member of the Three Valley Water District Board of Directors in the Pomona area of Calif., falsely claimed during a public meeting of the Board that he was a retired Marine, had been wounded many times in combat, and had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Alvarez pleaded guilty to violating the Stolen Valor Act and appealed its constitutionality, claiming it violated his First Amendment (Freedom of Speech) rights. The U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit held that the Stolen Valor Act was unconstitutional, but FRA believes there should be legal consequences for anyone who intentionally fabricates military service and honors.

The FRA Legislative team is Joe Barnes, National Executive Director; John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs; Bob Washington, Health Care Advisor and Outreach Manager; Chris Slawinski, National Veterans Service Officer and Ed Dockery, Assistant Director of Legislative Programs.

Together We Served Creates Lasting Legacies and Connections for America's Veterans

TOGETHER WE SERVED
NO STRONGER BOND

Every day, more than 300 Vietnam veterans, 450 Korean veterans, and 850 WWII veterans pass away. Brian Foster had these startling statistics in mind when he created TogetherWeServed.com (TWS), a military heritage website for current and former U.S. service members to reconnect with long-lost friends, share camaraderie, and record their service for future generations.

"If we don't capture it now, most of these veterans' military service and sacrifice will go unrecorded, resulting in a tragic loss of our military history," said Foster.

Since its launch as a Marine Corps site in 2003, TWS has expanded to include profiles of more than one million veterans and active service members from the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Army. With more than three million photos, TWS has one of

the largest collections of visual military memoirs in existence, and the site has a growing library of veterans' self-interviews. TWS aims to capture more than four million additional veteran profiles within the next five years in the most compelling, secure, and accurate presentation possible.

TWS members can create a record of their military service on their personal "Service Biography" page outlining details of their service. Medal ribbons and badges are displayed as-worn on uniforms and members can upload unlimited photos and videos. The information is packaged in a unique online "Shadow Box" presentation, a permanent space to share it with family and friends. If a veteran is not familiar with computers, TWS encourages a close family member or friend to help them complete their Service Biography page.

Each month, five "TWS Voices," one for each branch of service, are highlighted in an e-mail to the entire membership.

There is no charge to join and build a Service Biography page, which may also be shared with family members. Full Membership, which provides access to premium areas of the website, costs only \$19.95/year. Unlike Facebook pages for service members, TWS is a completely secure networking site with no public access.

In appreciation of their service, WWII and Korean War veterans are automatically awarded Honorary Life Membership.

If you or a loved one would like to join the TWS network, please contact Military Heritage Director Denise Kincaid at 888-398-3262/denise.kincaid@togetherweserved.com, or register at TogetherWeServed.com.

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Membership Awards

SUCCESS IN RECRUITING AND retention is acknowledged in FRA's Membership Awards Program. There are several awards presented to members for their outstanding efforts in promoting the image of FRA at various outreach events and in return capturing the attention of prospective members who join the FRA. Let's outline the criteria for the eligibility to receive these awards.

The FRA Membership Year starts on April 1, and ends on March 31. During this time period there is emphasis on recruiting and retaining members, which is recognized through various awards for branches and individuals.

There are two recruiting awards named for the former FRA National Secretary, Charles E. Lofgren. Shipmate Lofgren was instrumental in devising methods for recruiting and retaining members, during his tenure from 1934 through 1957. During his leadership he was credited with sending membership communications to newly promoted Chief Petty Officers, new transferees to the Fleet Naval Reserve and all Chief Petty Officers' messes afloat. Because of his diligence the membership in FRA increased significantly. Currently, the Charles E. Lofgren Membership Awards for Branches and Individuals are reviewed by the National Committee on Membership and Retention. The criteria for competing for these awards are to have the highest number of recruits in the branch groups I – V and are the same for individuals. One branch and individual from each group is selected to receive these awards. The award consists of a Brass Captain's Bell with

an engraved plate for each branch and a personal award for each individual.

The Abraham M. Rosenberg Membership Trophy is named after the 11th FRA National President. Shipmate Rosenberg served from 1934–1935. To be eligible to receive this award, one branch out of the branches awarded The Charles E. Lofgren Branch Membership Award is nominated by the Membership Committee to be the recipient. This branch will have the highest membership growth of all eligible branches during the year. Branches who acquire members through mergers will not be considered for the Lofgren or Rosenberg awards.

Another coveted membership award is the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award. This award is competitively awarded by the Membership Committee to one shipmate who exemplifies the three cardinal FRA principles of loyalty, protection and service as they relate to membership endeavors. The shipmate selected must have expended extensive effort towards the overall growth of the Fleet Reserve Association. The selectee need not be a top recruiter, but an individual who has maintained a positive public attitude as it affects the membership and retention of members of the Association. Names of qualified individuals must be submitted via application and vetted through the regional leadership for approval and submitted to the Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee no later than seven days prior to the annual FRA National Convention. This is an opportunity for each of the nine regions to submit applications of shipmates



Penny Collins

who meet the criteria for this award. The selectee will be announced at the convention.

The 100% Award Streamer Ribbon is given to each branch that has maintained branch membership without a loss. This is another opportunity for branches to showcase their efforts in maintaining membership.

There are other awards relegated to individuals for their recruiting efforts. Any member of the FRA or Auxiliary who recruits one, two, three, ten, or fifty new or reinstated members shall be awarded an appropriate Sea Service or National President's Membership Club Pin, Gold Lapel Button Award or the Silver Anchor Squadron Award.

In addition, a special recruiting program approved by the Membership Committee can be offered to those shipmates who recruit thirty-two members during the recruiting year. The award will be a life membership or \$200 cash.

Each year the Association sets recruiting goals to maintain membership. It should be the goal for each shipmate to recruit at least one new or reinstated member each year. Our voices on Capitol Hill can be heard with a louder roar if each member takes the opportunity to discuss the value of FRA membership with a prospective member who joins the Association. The values include legislative advocacy, fellowship and service, and improved pay, benefits, and quality of life programs.

So let's get started in 2012 to grow our membership and focus on retaining current members. Let's have a banner year.

Penny Collins is FRA's Director of Membership Development and a member of FRA Branch 24 in Annapolis, Md. She can be reached at penny@fra.org.

U.S. GOV'T GOLD AT-COST

TODAY - The U.S. Money Reserve has scheduled the final release of U.S. Gov't Issued \$5 Gold Coins previously held at the U.S. Mint at West Point. These Gov't Issued Gold Coins are being released on a first-come, first-served basis for the incredible mark-up free price of only \$172.62 per coin. Please be advised: our at-cost U.S. Gov't Gold inventory will be available at this special price while supplies last or for up to 30 days. Do not delay. Call a Sr. Gold Specialist today.

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Honor Flights



They've been called our nation's "Greatest Generation." They fought and watched their friends and fellow warriors die in places like Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Midway and the Coral Sea. They are the surviving veterans of World War II (WWII) and most are in their 80s or early 90s now. The memories of their military service may be fading for some, but those who make an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to visit the World War II Memorial — their memorial — will recall their special day of honor for the rest of their lives.

Thousands of WWII veterans from around the country travel to our nation's capital each year through the generous efforts of Honor Flight Network (HFN), a non-profit organization that works to provide transportation for America's veterans – at no cost – from their hometowns to Washington, D.C., so they can see the memorials erected in their honor.

"Honor Flight Network's goal is to ensure every single veteran who is willing and able to get on a plane or bus has the opportunity to experience his or her memorial," says Jim McLaughlin, HFN's

by Lauren Armstrong



chairman of the board. “By the end of 2012, we hope to transport our 100,000th veteran to our nation’s capital.”

Between 900 and 1,000 WWII veterans die each day and, according to McLaughlin, “time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.” As a result, veterans from WWII and veterans from other conflicts who are terminally ill have top priority for the flights. “The program will naturally transition to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis. Some states have been able to send all of their WWII veterans and are already working to provide the same opportunity to Korean War veterans.”

“The Best Day of My Life”

Although veterans can also travel by ground (see more about HFN’s other programs on page 25), most Honor Flight vets come by plane, arriving at one of three D.C.-area airports: Dulles International (IAD), Reagan National (DCA) and Baltimore-Washington (BWI) Airports.

“We welcomed 95 flights into Reagan [National Airport] during the 2011 season, which included 11,217 veterans coming from 53 cities,” explains Nancy Griffith, who coordinates volunteers on the ground at DCA. “We do everything we possibly can to make the day, from start to finish, extra special for the veterans.”

Volunteers in the local community give the vets a patriotic send-off when they leave for their big day, but nothing prepares them for the grand welcome they receive when they arrive in D.C. Fire trucks spray water jets over the planes as they taxi to the gate, creating an arch in tribute to the vets. The jetways and gate areas are festooned with red, white and blue balloons, bunting and streamers. Choral groups, dance troupes or other entertainers are often on hand, wearing clothes and performing songs that were popular during the War era. HFN volunteers distribute small flags to travelers and other airport personnel, who

Three top photos: John Rickards, volunteer with USO of Metropolitan Washington



enthusiastically wave, clap, cheer and shake hands with the heroes as they get off the plane.

“It can be very emotional for the veterans,” says Griffith. “Many say the welcome at the airport is the best part of the trip and they often tear up, as do many of the greeters.”

“Sometimes family members will surprise their veteran by arriving in advance, greeting them as they get off the plane or bus, and accompanying them throughout the day,” adds Susan Stinson, a D.C.-based HFN volunteer coordinator for flights that originate in Madison, Wisconsin. “It’s such a surprise for them and very moving to witness. I learned early on to wear waterproof mascara!”

Because the number of greeters allowed past the security checkpoints is limited, some wait in the airport lobby and applaud the veterans as they make their way through the airport and onto buses that will take them to the WWII Memorial and other memorials throughout the city.

“We also have volunteers — scout troops, church groups and individuals — who just show up at the memorials to greet the veterans and say ‘thank you.’ Some are high-ranking military members, and we’ve even had members of Congress come out,” says Stinson. “On one of my visits with the Madison vets, Senator Bob Dole, who is Honor Flight’s honorary advisor, and his wife [former Senator Elizabeth Dole] came out and shook hands and took photos with every veteran who asked.”

“The WWII Memorial is the primary focus, so we always try to spend an hour or two there. We visit other memorials as time allows,” explains Stinson, who has been involved with HFN since 2010. “If it’s a large group or if there are a lot of veterans who have difficulty walking, we move more slowly. Weather can also be a factor, but most Honor Flight groups include the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, the Lincoln Memorial and the Marine Corps’ Iwo Jima Memorial. We also try to at least drive by the Air Force Memorial.



“Many of the vets seem to perk up and revert to the 18- or 20-year olds they were when they served,” she continues. “Often the flights are a sort of reunion, reconnecting vets with their old wartime buddies. They forget their aches and pains for a while and enjoy the camaraderie of their military days again.”

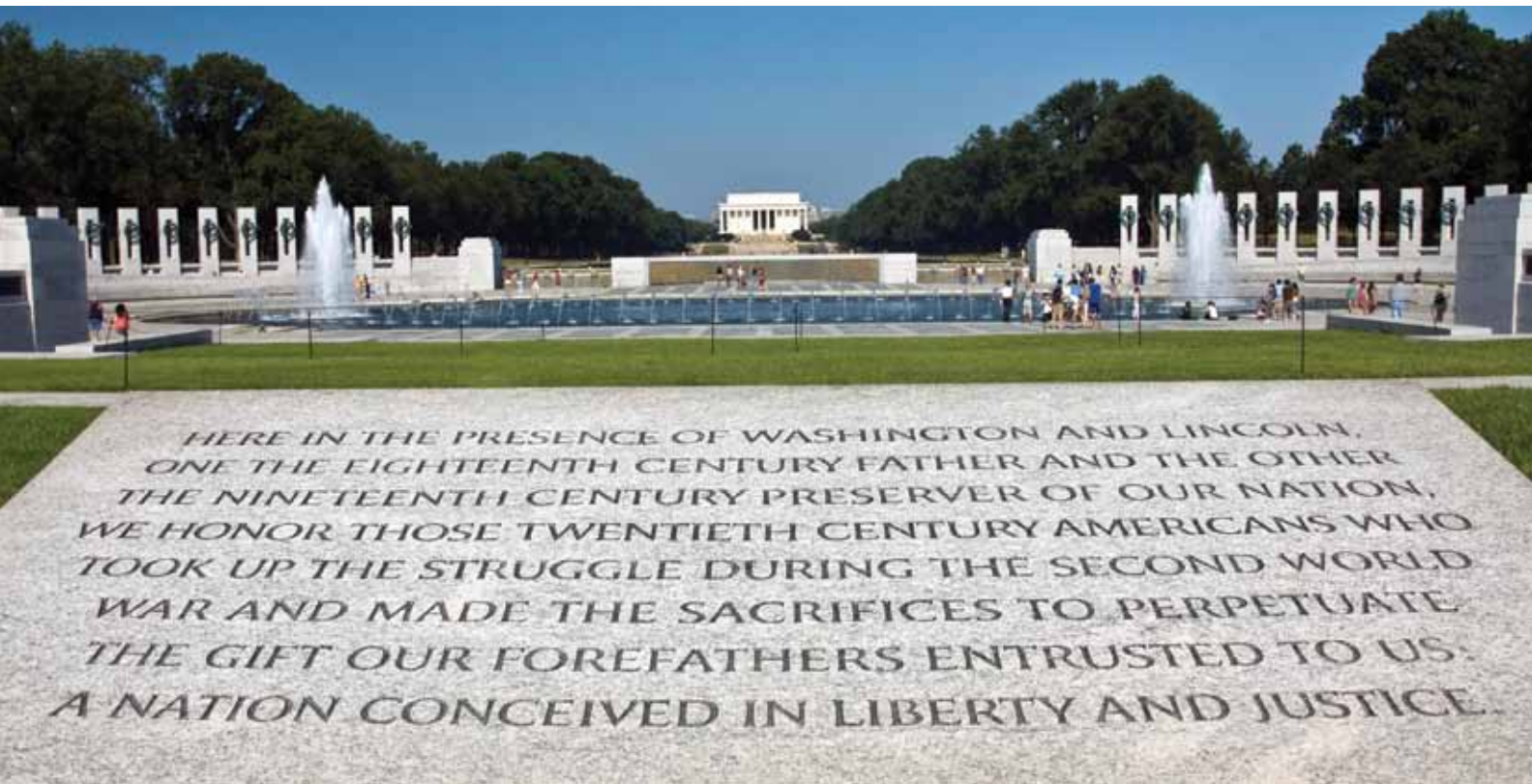
When the tour is complete, the happily exhausted veterans and their escorts are bused back to the airport for their return flight home.

“Groups that come from west of the Mississippi River arrive the day before and stay in a local hotel, which is included as part of the HFN package. Even those who are coming from the eastern portion of the country have been up since the crack of dawn to start their adventure. It’s a long day for all of them, but so worth it,” says Stinson.

Griffith, who has also served as an escort, or “guardian,” for Honor Flight veterans, says the vets’ reaction is the best part of the day for her. “They’re all so humble; never asking to be recognized, but so grateful for the sentiments bestowed on them. I heard one gentleman say, ‘I’ve done it all now. I’ve seen my memorial; my life is complete.’ And I’ve heard numerous vets describe their Honor Flight experience as ‘the best day of my life.’ It’s really special to play a part in making that happen for them.”

A Daughter’s Tribute

Like most Honor Flight volunteers, Stinson is passionate about her participation in the program. She initially learned of it when the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association invited alums to help out with the first Badger (Madison area) Honor Flight and she’s been hooked ever since. Not



HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN,
ONE THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FATHER AND THE OTHER
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PRESERVER OF OUR NATION,
WE HONOR THOSE TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICANS WHO
TOOK UP THE STRUGGLE DURING THE SECOND WORLD
WAR AND MADE THE SACRIFICES TO PERPETUATE
THE GIFT OUR FOREFATHERS ENTRUSTED TO US.
A NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND JUSTICE.

only does her affiliation with the Wisconsin Honor Flight program allow her to be connected with vets from her home state, each vet she meets strengthens her bond with her father, who passed away in 2006.

“My father, Donald James Normoyle, was a 23-year-old second lieutenant navigator/bombardier during World War II and was a contributing Charter Member of the WWII Memorial. He never saw the completed memorial with his own eyes. My college roommate, Juli O’Leary Hillebrand, is also an HFN volunteer whose father was also a bombardier. We wear photo pins of our fathers — both named Don — and their Army Air Corps wings over our hearts whenever we do Honor Flights. It’s a privilege to help other WWII veterans realize my father’s dream and every time I escort an Honor Flight group, I like to think that Dad’s seeing the memorials through their eyes. Dad taught me love of family, love of God and love of country; I do this because I love him. It’s the greatest gift I can give for the wonderful gift he gave me.”

Volunteers Make it Happen

Honor Flights couldn’t happen without a large cadre of volunteers like Stinson and Griffith. In addition to the ground crew volunteers, each veteran is assigned a volunteer guardian. Guardians can be family members or may be non-related volunteers assigned by the local HFN organizers. Guardians stay with their vet or vets throughout the day, making sure that the trip goes smoothly for them. They distribute t-shirts, ensure boarding passes and IDs are in hand, get the vets through airport security and assist with boarding. Upon arrival in D.C., they remain with their assigned vet(s) as they visit the memorials and ensure they have a safe and memorable trip.



Left and Center Photos: Lt. Don Normoyle (center in both images) was attached to the 509th Composite Group of the U.S. Army Air Forces and joined some of his fellow WWII vets at a bombardier reunion in the 1990s. Right Photo: Shipmate William Magito of Citrus Branch 186 participated in an Ocala (Fla.) Honor Flight with his daughter, Ann Marie Hudon of St. Petersburg, as his guardian.



Attention, Shipmates!

To learn more about participating in Honor Flight Network, as a veteran or volunteer, visit www.honorflight.org.

(Please note that Honor Flight Network is NOT affiliated with programs promoted at Honorflight.com and Honorflights.com. These sites are sponsored by companies that charge a fee for flights to visit the WWII Memorial.)

Shipmates who live in the greater D.C. area and would like to participate in the Honor Flight Network as part of the ground crew can contact the volunteer coordinator for the nearest airport:

Reagan National Airport:

Christina Zvir at dca.honorflight@gmail.com

Dulles International Airport:

Judi Wybenga at heroeswelcomeiad@gmail.com

Baltimore-Washington Airport:

Glen Anderson at ganderson@qis.net

Shipmate William Magito (Branch 186, Hernando, Fla.) had the privilege of participating in an Honor Flight in October of 2011, with his daughter, Ann Marie Hudon, accompanying him. “What an experience!” exclaimed Hudon. “I’m so happy that my Dad had the opportunity to see the WWII Memorial and I’m honored that he wanted me to go with him.”

Honor Flight guardians are expected to pay their own way and prices vary depending on the departure city and prevailing airline fares. The cost is a flat fee that includes transportation and meals, and commonly ranges from \$300 to \$500. There is no fee for D.C.-area volunteers, who receive a boxed lunch and complimentary parking at the airport.



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Limited Mintage Striking...

WORLD'S FIRST \$100 SILVER PROOF



First-year
2011 date

Mirrored proof
background

Larger Franklin
portrait

Liberty Bell, quill pen
& July 4th date

Minted in one Troy ounce
of pure silver bullion

Shown larger than
actual size of 6" x 2 1/2"

New York Mint Announces the Limited Mintage Striking of an Extraordinary Silver Proof—the New United States \$100 Bill Struck in Pure Silver Bullion. Discount Price \$99



This extraordinary piece of pure silver bullion has a surface area that exceeds 30 square inches...and it contains one Troy ounce of pure silver bullion!

And now, during a limited strike period, the very first Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proof is available at a special discount price—only \$99!

EXQUISITE DETAIL

The historic First Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proof is an exquisite adaptation of the United States Treasury's \$100 Federal Reserve Note—only the second new \$100 bill design in 70 years. It is a true artistic masterpiece that will always be treasured.

.999 SILVER

Best of all, this stunning Silver Proof is even more beautiful than the original, because it's struck in precious silver bullion!

It is a landmark in proof minting, combining unprecedented weight with extraordinary dimension. The specifications for this colossal medallion proof are unparalleled.

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- Is Individually Struck from Pure .999 Silver Bullion.
- Weighs one Troy ounce.
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- Contains 31.10 Grams (480 Grains) of Pure Silver.
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- Is Fully Encapsulated to Protect Its Mirror-Finish.
- Includes a Deluxe Presentation Case.

ADVANCE STRIKE DISCOUNT

The price for the 2011 One-Ounce Silver Proof will be set at \$129 per proof.

However, if you place your order now, you can acquire this giant silver proof at the special advance strike discount price—only \$99.

NOTE TO COLLECTORS: *If you place your order for the \$100 silver proof within the next 10 days, it will be processed immediately, and the earliest orders will receive the lowest registration numbers.*

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS

Substantial additional discounts are available for serious collectors who wish to acquire more than one of these exquisite silver proofs.

You can order:

- ONE Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proofs for just \$99 + s/h
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There is a limit of twenty \$100 Silver Proofs per order, and all orders are subject to acceptance by New York Mint.

ONLY 5,000 AVAILABLE

New York Mint will strike only 5,000 One-Ounce Silver Proofs for the year 2011, so oversubscription is a virtual certainty.

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Shipmates from Branch 269 (Goose Creek, S.C.) regularly participate as guardians on Honor Flights coming to D.C.



Top right photo: John Richards, volunteer with USO of Metropolitan Washington

“Being a guardian is a great experience, but it isn’t a walk in the park,” says Stinson. “Guardians must be able to lift a certain amount of weight and push wheelchairs. Your veteran is your responsibility for the day and we don’t want to let them down for any reason.”

Guardians undergo a training program that teaches them to assist the veterans without hurting them or themselves. The training program is offered once or twice a year in most hub city locations and lasts about two hours. Guardians are taught how to lift veterans, if required, how to help them on stairs and other tips for ensuring the vets are safe throughout their trip. Many Honor Flight groups sponsor a pre-flight dinner or other social event a week or two before the trip, so that veterans can meet their guardians in advance. This also allows the vets and guardians to get to know one another and form some common bonds before they ever set foot on the plane. A guardian may have up to three veterans assigned to him or her, depending on the mobility and needs of the vets, and Stinson estimates that more than 50 percent of the volunteer guardians are non-family members.

Each flight also comes with its own volunteer medical staff. “I once escorted a couple of 91- and 92-year-old vets, who were in incredible physical shape for their ages. They were very fit, walked daily, went fishing and were very mobile. But we also have others who aren’t so well off,” explains Griffith. “Many have remarkable medical needs and require oxygen, wheelchairs and other medical assistance.”

In addition to the guardians and ground crew volunteers, there are others who make significant contributions to the Honor Flights. The USO and its volunteers are very engaged in the program, assisting in a variety of ways. Southwest Airlines and Hilton Hotels are official Honor

Flight sponsors, donating significant time and money to the cause. Other corporate entities are also actively involved. For example, US Airways coordinates entertainment and decorations for flights arriving at Reagan National Airport, and also goes to great lengths to provide gate passes for volunteers who must submit credentials in advance.

FRA is one of several military/veterans service organizations that support HFN and Branch 269 (Goose Creek, S.C.) is a prime example. Shipmates and Auxiliary members began raising funds for Honor Flight in 2009 and their efforts have grown tremendously over the past few years.

“We held car washes, bake sales and asked for individual donations,” shares Branch Secretary Darlene Hines. “That first year we donated more than \$3,000 to Honor Flight. Any donation over \$2,500 earns a free trip for a guardian. We decided to take our free guardian trip and raffle it off. Not only did this make it a fair way to choose who would go, but we also raised even more money to donate back to the Honor Flight program!”

Shipmate Larry Starland won one of the raffled guardian trips and another dozen or so branch members have paid \$500 to escort a brother, uncle or friend who served in WWII. Branch and Auxiliary members attend Honor Flight meetings and have also joined other local community groups to send the veterans off and welcome them home in grand style.

“Each flight costs between \$55,000 and \$60,000, and as long as funds are available, Honor Flight Lowcountry will continue to operate annual trips. We’re planning two for 2012,” says Starland. Since 2009, Branch and Unit 269 have contributed more than \$8,200 to Honor Flight, with plans to contribute at least \$2,500 annually. “I’m really proud of what we’ve done.”

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Three top photos: John Richards, volunteer with USO of Metropolitan Washington

How HFN Works

HFN consists of 111 regional hubs in 34 states, and each hub raises money and coordinates Honor Flights for veterans in its geographic area. Each hub has a website that includes region-specific information about upcoming flights as they are scheduled. Veterans, guardians and other volunteers who wish to participate in the program must file an application through their regional hub.

Applications are available online (at www.honorflight.org/ apply) along with a map that provides information about the hubs in each state. Space is limited on each flight and veterans are flown on a first-come, first-served basis, with World War II veterans and other vets with terminal illnesses given top priority.

HFN also sponsors other programs to fulfill its goal of getting every veteran to D.C.:

Southwest Lone Eagle Program: WWII vets who've been waiting more than a year and live more than 120 miles from a regional hub airport are considered Lone Eagles and every effort is made to fly them from the commercial airport nearest their home. Like all Honor Flight participants, a guardian must accompany the veteran. For a donation of \$400, Honor Flight will provide the guardian with transportation, meals and lodging, if necessary. There are special veteran and guardian application forms for this program, which are available at www.honorflight.org/programs/lone-eagle.cfm

Southwest TLC Program: Veterans who have recently been diagnosed with a terminal illness are placed in a special "TLC" category, meaning "Their Last Chance" to see the memorials is near at hand. TLCs are given top priority. Overnight stays are required for TLC veterans and TLC guardians must also pay \$400 to cover transportation, meals and lodging. To be considered for this program, veterans must provide a doctor's note that includes diagnosis and prognosis information along with their application. Visit www.honorflight.org/programs/tlc/cfm for more information.

RVC Program: HFN has a 28-foot motor home that is the flagship for their Recreational Vehicle (RV) Convoy

program, which offers veterans who do not wish to fly an opportunity to visit the D.C. memorials. More details are available at www.honorflight.org/programs/rvc.cfm

Solo Program: The Solo Program is ideally designed for veterans and guardians willing to pay their own way to BWI Airport. Visit www.honorflight.org/programs/solo.cfm for more information.

Flags for Our Heroes: This program provides family members the opportunity to know that their departed veteran is held in the highest regard at their memorial. For more information, visit www.honorflight.org/programs/flags.cfm

A Very Personal "Thank You"

To say that Honor Flights are very special events is a supreme understatement, according to Griffith, and she tries to share her experiences with as many people as possible. "Participating in Honor Flight gives me an opportunity to thank these vets, face-to-face, for all they've given to our country. They are so humble and often say, 'We just did what we had to do.' I feel it's terribly important to say thank you and it's an honor to participate in such heart-warming and meaningful moments."

Stinson agrees and recalls one of her Honor Flight visits to the WWII Memorial where several visitors made a big impression on her and, most importantly, on the veterans.

"These total strangers, many of them from foreign countries, came up and thanked the vets for changing their lives. It was amazing to watch these middle-aged tourists thanking the seniors for saving the world, often in broken English. One gentleman from Germany said, 'Thank you for saving me from my dictator.' It was very powerful and really drove home what this generation did."



Lauren Armstrong is the Contributing Editor and Member of the FRA Auxiliary. She can be reached at lauren@fra.org.

Italian Doctor Discovers Ancient “Love Drug”

*Now available without a prescription!
Call now and get 250 carats of rich,
gorgeous garnet—for UNDER \$30!*

Today if you want to learn about gemstones, you ask a jeweler or geologist. But back in the 16th century, Italians went to see the doctor. Respected men of science and medicine believed that precious stones did more than just look pretty. They believed the power of gems could cure almost anything. And if you needed serious help in the romance department, nothing worked better than garnet. Today you can get a massive dose of the legendary gem for an unbelievable price. Call now and this stunning **250-Carat Garnet Garland Necklace**, valued at \$179, is yours for **ONLY \$29.95!**

The color of passion. In 1502, Camillus Leonardus, M.D. published his *Speculum Lapidum (Mirror of Stones)* about the mystical and spiritual properties of gemstones. One of the superstars of that volume was the deep-red garnet. Garnet was adored by the Greeks and Romans. In the Middle Ages, Bohemian craftsmen used it to create romantic treasures. Few stones provoke more passion, fire and desire than glowing red garnets. Today the heat still smolders.

Your love isn't average. It deserves a remarkable necklace at a ridiculous discount. We originally offered this 26" rope of enhanced garnet beads for \$179. But the Italian doctor inspired us to give garnets the big deal they deserved. After all, if a stone has been said to “dissipate sadness, avert evil thoughts and exhilarate the soul,” it begs for something special. If scholars once thought that garnets could “bring sleep to the sleepless, drive away the plague, and attract riches, glory, honor and great wisdom,” why stop at ordinary?

That's why, for the next four weeks only, you can wear this 250-Carat **Garnet Garland Necklace** for the unbelievable price of **\$29.95!** That's right, you get 250 carats for under \$30! The gorgeous necklace is an endless strand of polished garnets that perfectly complements any outfit from couture to casual. Deep color. Sparkling. Seductive. Can the legendary love powers of garnet rev up your romance? We can't say for sure, but taking your medicine has never felt like more of an indulgence!

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- 250 ctw of genuine semi-precious garnet
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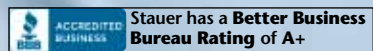
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Perfect Choice HD vs Traditional Hearing Aids

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Intelligent Setting Memory	YES	Few
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Friendly Return Policy	YES	rarely

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Perfect Choice HD is not a hearing aid. If you believe you need a hearing aid, please consult a physician.

Florida Chief Petty Officers Association

April 11–14, 2012, Jacksonville, Fla.
Contact Bob Wall, 352-746-9742,
rwall97@tampabay.rr.com.

Mine Division 113 Vietnam

September 27–30, 2012, Chicago, Ill.
Contact Dick Schreifels, 247 14th Ave.
So., South St. Paul, MN, 651-455-
1876, MineDiv113Reunion@msn.com.

NMCB 62 & Edzell, Scotland Seabees

February 23–26, 2012, Hampton, Va.
Contact Norm Hahn, 1805 Oaklawn Dr.,
Eau Claire, WI 54703, 715-834-4780,
normhahnjr@yahoo.com.

Submarine Veterans Convention

September 2–9, 2012, Norfolk, Va.
Contact John Kennedy, 757-872-9938.

Tin Can Sailors

September 2–6, 2012, Seattle, Wash.
Contact Terry Miller, PO Box 100,
Somerset MA 02726, 508-677-0515,
tcs@tincans.org.

USS Antietam (CV/CVA/CVS-36/CG-54)

September 19–23, 2012, Portland,
Ore. Contact Lyonel Young, 140 N.
Edgemoor, Wichita, KS 67208, 316-
425-5693, lyonel.young@cox.net.

USS Blackfin (SS-322)

September 4–8, 2012, Norfolk, Va.
Contact Ed Poole, 5690 Enchantress
Ln., Buford, GA 30518, 770-932-0642,
tkeps322@att.net.

USS Carpenter (DD-825)

April 22–26, 2012, Las Vegas, Nev.
Contact Joel Weinbaum, 256-351-
8552, smokycolors@yahoo.com.

USS Claude V. Ricketts/formely Biddle (DDG-5)

May 3–6, 2012, Jacksonville, Fla.
Contact Carl W. Slack, PO Box 83,
Jackson, NH 03846, 603-986-4661,
RickettsDDG5@Yahoo.com.

USS Cony (DD/DDE-508)

May 30–June 3, 2012, Providence,
R.I. Contact Ken Cox, 863-307-3187,
kcox@tampabay.rr.com.

USS Des Moines (CA-134) Association

August 3–5, 2012, Mercer, Pa. Contact
Art Weeks, 5 Karen St., Portsmouth, RI
02871, 401-683-3131, ca134@cox.net.

USS Forrest B. Royal (DD-872)

June 21–24, 2012, Branson, MO.
Contact Ron Larsen, 1240 Franklin St.,
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-2807,
(715) 423-8905, mosbyusn@wctc.net.

USS HANCOCK (CVA 19)

May 2–7, 2012, Chicago, Ill. Contact
John Hunter, 6902 Breeland Dr.,
Huntington Beach, CA 92647,
714-898-0016.

USS John W. Thomason (DD-760)

July 25–28, 2012, South Bend, Ind.
Contact Howard Barrett, 574-294-
6502, Howard2000gt@verizon.net.

USS Juneau (LPD-10) “All Hands”

June 14–17, 2012, Waterloo, Iowa.
Contact Terry Baumfalk, 765-432-
8655, tbaumfalk@aol.com.

USS Lofberg (DD-759)

September 20–23, 2012, Portland, Ore.
Contact David Biggs, 541-935-2705.

USS Manitowoc (LST-1180)

August 2–5, 2012, Evansville, Ind.
Contact Ken Bohanon, 763-244-0051,
Kenbohanon@live.com.

USS Markab (AK-31, AD-21, AR-23)

September 26–30, 2012, Branson, Mo.
Contact Bill Hanzel, 3428 S. Kittredge
St., Aurora, CO. 80013, 303-766-7035,
bhanzel@comcast.net.

USS Oklahoma City Association

September 25–30, 2012, Rapid
City, S.D. Contact John F. Baker,
620-221-0343.

USS Pittsburgh (SSN-720)

July 20–21, 2012, Groton, Conn.
Contact Lee Johnson, 75 Lindell Ave.,
Leominster, MA 01453, 617-593-6918,
ljohnson@stormforge.net.

**USS Randolph (CV/CVA/CVS-15)/USS
Terror (CM-5)**

September 16–23, 2012, Savannah,
Ga. Contact Sal Rizza, 321-454-2344.

USS San Marcos (LSD-25)

May 17–20, 2012, Jacksonville, Fla.
Contact Patrick Finnerty, 2112 Mystic
Cove Dr., Virginia Beach, VA.23455,
757-214-3814, eirepat1@cox.net.

USS Sierra (AD-18)

October 10–13, 2012, San Antonio,
Texas. Contact Malcolm Jones, 956-
343-3644, cofftime@att.net.

USS Tennessee (BB-43)

May 29–June 1, 2012, San Diego, Calif.
Contact John Dussault, 17504 Plaza
Gitana, San Diego, CA 92128, 858-
676-0765, jcdusso@yahoo.com.

USS Terrell County (LST-1157)

October 3–7, 2012, New Orleans, La.
Contact Phil Vaccaro, 4729 Avron Blvd.,
Melaine, LA 70006, 504-456-2075.



USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN/SSN-610)

June 27–July 1, 2012, Bremerton,
Wash. Contact David Epstein, 2266
Viewmont Way W., Seattle, WA 98199,
206-285-6222, david.epstein@com-
cast.net.

USS Vesole (DD/DDR-878), 1945-1976

September 26–30, 2012, Chicago, Ill.
Contact R. Gorenflo, 32 Charlotte Rd.,
Fishkill, NY 12524-2707, 845-896-
2074, chiefny@earthlink.net.

USS Wainwright (CG/DLG-28)

July 18–22, 2012, Charleston, S.C.
Contact Malcolm Jones, 956-343-3644,
cofftime@att.net or Harry Chaffin, PO
Box 1212, Snellville, GA 30078, 404-
245-3835, chafdish@comcast.net.

USS Whitehurst (DE-634)

June 27–29, 2012, Knoxville, Tenn.
Contact Gordon Leslie, 803-276-2232.

USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN/SSN-624)

May 14–18, 2012, Reno, Nev. Contact
Melvin Cross, 360-830-4224, mcross@
telebyte.com.

VR-21 NAS Barbers Point and All Detachments

April 29–May 2, 2012, San Antonio,
Texas. Contact Jeff or Marilyn Murray,
7121 Grape Arbor Dr., Corpus Christi,
TX 78414, 361-992-3950, jmurray@
grandecom.net.

Members can post reunions online at www.fra.org,
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Are you in love with your home, but afraid of your staircase?



- Lifetime warranty*
- 10 safety sensors
- Swivel-style seat
- 350 lb. capacity
- Available in AC or DC models
- Easy to use
- Seat belt

This innovative and affordable solution enables you to maintain your independence and stay in the home you love.

Like most people, the older I get, the more I miss life's simple pleasures. The thing is, I want to stay in the home I love, the home where my wife and I raised our children. Recently, when my doctor told me that I should not climb stairs, I thought I had no choice but to move. Our bedroom's on the second floor, and neither my wife nor I feel safe walking up or down the stairs. I had even started looking at brochures for homes in a senior community when a friend asked me why I would move when there was such an easy solution. It's called the Easy Climber™, and it's enabled me to stay put.

If you or someone you love lives in a home with more than one floor, the staircase can be more than an inconvenience, it can be a health threat. Whether it's due to mobility issues or cardiac concerns, why risk your life climbing stairs when an easy solution is only a phone call away? You'll be surprised how easy, simple, and affordable this system is. It features a reliable, aircraft-grade cable drive that's

been tested over 30,000 cycles. It's also designed for basements and outdoors. It's simple enough for most people to install on either side of the stairs, a snap to use, and comes with an exclusive lifetime warranty* on the drive train. Call our toll-free number now, and a friendly, knowledgeable product expert can answer all of your questions and help you get on the road to independence and safety in the home.

Easy Climber™

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43651.

Because this item is customized for your home before shipping, it does not qualify for firstSTREET's normal 90 day risk-free trial.

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours a day.

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We accept all major credit cards, or if you choose, you can pay by check over the phone.

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What to look for

Quality Construction and Dependability:

Look for a cable drive system that uses high-grade cable. Go for one that has a weight capacity of at least 300 pounds. Has the product been tested over thousands and thousands of cycles?

Safety: Insist on built-in safety sensors to stop the chair upon encountering any obstruction. Make sure there's a swivel safety switch that prevents the lift from operating if you are not in the proper position. Don't forget the seat belt!

Flexibility: Look for a system that can be installed on either side of the staircase, a control that can be put on either side of the chair and has multiple call/send controls. There are systems out there that let you choose either AC or DC operation.

Warranty*: Some systems are backed by limited drive-train and parts warranties—why stop there? Insist on a lifetime warranty on the drive train.

Designed for easy self installation to save you money

My father always told me "when you want something done right... do it yourself." Your home is your most valuable investment, and adding Easy Climber™ can enhance its value. Why spend a lot for installation when this system has been designed to be installed by almost anyone, with only a drill and a screwdriver, in a matter of hours. You'll get the satisfaction of knowing the job was done right... not to mention the money you'll save. We'll include a helpful booklet to walk you through the simple installation process, and our helpful product experts will be standing by to help you at any time.

SPECIAL SAVINGS

Moving up and down your stairs safely and independently just became a little more affordable. To save an additional \$100 plus **FREE** shipping please call the number below and mention the special promo code.

Free Shipping Save \$100

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MEDICARE
covers back pain
relief at little or
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Also covered by many insurance plans

**No Risk to you - we offer a 30
day guarantee AND a lifetime
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The design features relieve pain, promote a neutral spine posture and restore function.

The design features include:

- Compact design/Slim profile
- Improves mobility/does not restrict movement
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- Allows you to return to the activities you love
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- 78% reported pain relief
- 84% would recommend



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Vacuum therapy is the safest, most effective form of impotence treatment. It is over 95% successful. If used properly, the system will work for virtually all men.

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"I tried other devices before and they required a lot of dexterity with all the manual pumping. With the new battery operated system there is no more embarrassing manual pumping and it's faster." - *Richard T.*

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You do not have to have diabetes to receive the vacuum therapy system

*deductible and copay may apply



BRANCH 126 JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Branch members participated in the 2011 Veterans Day Parade in Jacksonville. Shown (l to r) are Shipmates Ed Gribbin, Dave Burris, Clinton Attebery, Bill Kulier, Terrance Johnson and Al Peter. Visible on the float are Flo Kulier, Donald Rodely and Donald Walsh. (Photo by Unit 126 President Verilyn Thomas)



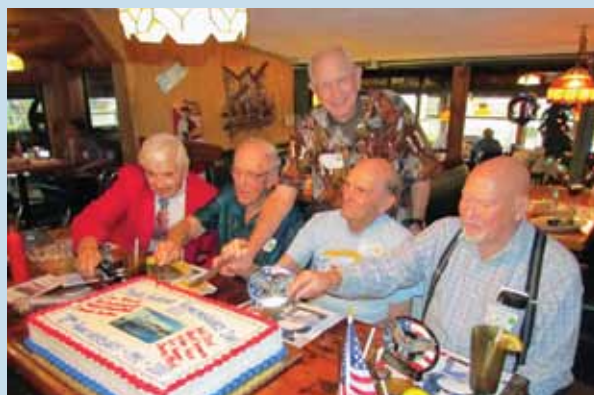
BRANCH 113 STOCKTON, CALIF.

During the branch-sponsored Navy Ball, Shipmates James Mora (left) and Dana Willard followed tradition by cutting the cake as the youngest and oldest members in attendance.



BRANCH 72 FALL RIVER, MASS.

Branch President Edward Bailey, Jr. (right) accepts the branch's 100% Membership banner from RPNEng Phillip Justin.



BRANCH 186 HERNANDO, FLA.

Branch and Unit members sponsored their 20th annual luncheon honoring local Pearl Harbor survivors. Jointly cutting the 70th Anniversary cake are (l to r) Ted Archambault, USMC; Donald Bloomfield, USAF; Jack Cissel, USA; Albert DeMarco, USA, and Robert Bewley, USN.



BRANCH 15 WALHALLA, S.C.

The branch commemorated the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor by presenting U.S. flags that had recently flown from the mast of the USS Arizona to Pearl Harbor survivors in the branch. Branch President Brad Jones (left) presented the flags to Shipmate Paul Greene, accepted on his behalf by Shipmate John Dye, (center) and Clarence Busch (right).

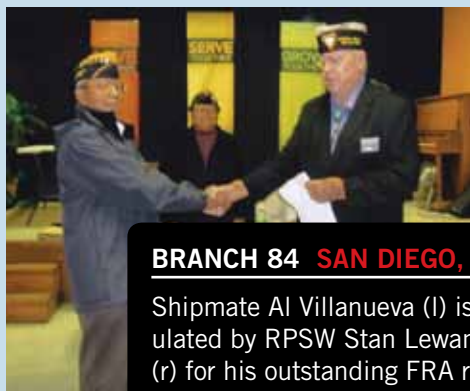


BRANCH 268 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Shipmate Robert B. Jackson (right) receives his pin and certificate for 60 years of continuous FRA membership from Branch President Jessie Whitney. Shipmate Jackson is a Pearl Harbor survivor and was the hull technician who cut through the capsized hull of the USS Oklahoma (BB-37) following the 1942 attack, rescuing 32 Sailors.

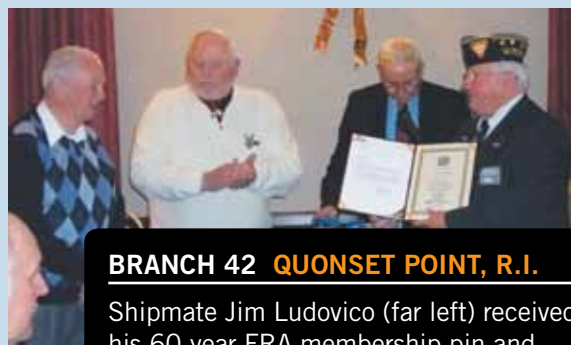
BRANCH 162 GRETNA, LA.

Top image: FRA Americanism Essay Contest winners (l to r) Erin Smith, Jeremiah Dregley and Brenna Sisson are flanked by Branch Secretary (PRPSC) Dave Field (left) and Shipmate Bob Kinghorn. Bottom image: 12th Grader Adam Fisher and 11th Grader Julie Melancon from St. Charles Catholic High School were also recognized by Shipmate Kinghorn. Fisher placed second nationally for his grade level.



BRANCH 84 SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

Shipmate Al Villanueva (l) is congratulated by RPSW Stan Lewandowski (r) for his outstanding FRA recruiting efforts. Branch President Manny Cabildo looks on.



BRANCH 42 QUONSET POINT, R.I.

Shipmate Jim Ludovico (far left) received his 60-year FRA membership pin and certificate from RPNEng Phil Justin (far right) as Branch President Ken Senker and Shipmate Bob Lassari look on.



BRANCH 283 ELSMERE, KY.

Branch President and "Proud Navy Dad" Charles Clark (left) poses with his son and newest branch member, Charles, Jr., following graduation ceremonies from Navy Boot Camp at Great Lakes, Ill.

To submit a photo for *News From the Branches*, please e-mail a photo as an attachment in jpeg format to FRAToday@fra.org or mail a high-quality photograph to *FRA Today*, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include a brief description of the photograph and include the names of those pictured. Laser prints and scanned copies of photographs cannot be accepted.

NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Allen, Bendall W, ABCM, USN	281	Hall, Timothy K, CDR, USN	MAL
Allen, Raymond, NCC, USN	MAL	Halligan, Harry B, EMC, USN	170
Aller, William L, LCDR, USN	MAL	Hankins, James A, MSGT, USMC	MAL
Altemus, Kay M., SGT, USMC	118	Hansen, Philip V, LCDR, USN	050
Anderson, Robert S., ADJC, USN	136	Harper, William A, PHCS, USN	022
Bagwell, Roy E, FTGC, USN	046	Harper, William A, EMCM, USN	264
Barclay, Bruce M., LCDR, USN	269	Hayes, Raymond W, HMCS, USN	MAL
Birch, Austin J, AK1, USN	022	Herald, Thomas, CPO, USNR	MAL
Blanco, Abe B, EMC, USN	008	Hinesley, Harry, POCM, USN	289
Blatchford, Arthur C, ADRC, USN	MAL	Ilapit, Fernando, MSC, USN	040
Blevins, George, BMC, USN	060	Jacobs, Norman L, AZCS, USN	MAL
Blihar, Robert C, BMCS, USN	269	James, Charles T, MAL	
Boswell, F L, LCDR, USN	MAL	Jarvis, Neil, YN1, USN	023
Boudreau, Ernest C, USN	MAL	Jones, Ralph T, ADJC, USN	091
Bowling, Wilgus, SHC, USN	283	Jones, Floyd M, NCC, USN	MAL
Brackett, Horace C, TMCS, USN	050	Jones, Mason B, STC, USN	MAL
Brady, Allen, USN	097	Karr, Kenneth S, YNC, USN	276
Breton, Francis J, PO2, USN	MAL	Kastorff, Arnum H, CSC, USN	292
Brockman, Roger T, AK2, USN	289	Kaufman, Kimber F, HMC, USN	MAL
Brown, Russell W, BMCS, USNR	246	Kearsey, John D, PNCM, USN	022
Brown, Bruce W, CDR, USN	335	Krick, Arthur A, AMSC, USN	136
Buonfigli, Thomas R, SH1, USN	222	Kulikowski, Jack A, LCDR, USN	166
Byrd, Albert J, EMCM, USN	MAL	Lewis, Mitchell A, AMHC, USN	156
Cardwell, James L, SGT, USMC	316	Luongo, Anthony J, EOC, USN	226
Carlile, William L, DPCCS, USN	024	Mandell, Wesley C, ENCM(SS), USN	024
Cerminaro, Angelo, BMC, USN	306	Marler, Wayne, MMCM, USN	MAL
PRPNC, Chapman, Thomas F, AXC, USN	364	Marran, Frank D, AXC, USN	156
Coffman, Walter W, CDR, USN	156	Martin, Richard A, CTA1, USN	012
Collie, Van B, LTJG, USN	366	Martin, Alexander J, LT, USN	170
Collins, Joel J, YNCS, USN	159	Martinez, Michael J, ADRC, USN	146
Colson, James W, DR, USN	090	Matthews, William E, SK1, USN	MAL
Conner, Charles, ATC, USN	022	McDonald, George, ADRC, USN	334
Corbett, Arthur B.Jr. ET3, USN	008	McGowan, Richard J, BUC, USN	014
Corzine, Jack, ADC, USN	267	McHale, Joseph J, ATC, USN	299
Dees, Carl L, ADJ1, USN	386	McIlmoil, John, CDR, USN	MAL
Desorda, Frederick E, MM1, USN	MAL	McManus, Harold E, ADC, USN	276
Dobrunick, Charles, HTC, USN	MAL	McNulty, Bernard M, BMC, USN	MAL
Dommm, Christian Jon, CPL, USMC	011	McShane, Hugh E, PNC, USN	115
Donahue, Cecil E, EN1, USN	027	Mejares, Froilan P, AKC, USN	084
Drinkwater, Oscar, PO1, USN	MAL	Merola, Marco F, ADC, USN	001
Dukes, John, MCPO, USN	MAL	Miles, Ernest R, MA1, USN	MAL
Dumlao, Amando F, MS1, USN	247	Mims, Lonzy R, ADJC, USN	091
Dwyer, James J, AMSC, USN	MAL	Moberly, Edwin H, PO3, USN	024
Eller, Walton G, YNCM(SS), USN	011	Moore, Verlon N, CTTCM, USN	063
Estes, Harold B, BMC, USN	046	Moore, Jones P, HMC, USN	051
Ferreira, Louis, QMC, USN	009	Nelson, William P, GYSGT, USMC	MAL
Fincher, Timothy J, RM1, USN	367	O'Toole, Patrick J, STCS, USN	009
Foss, Walter J, YNC(SS), USN	210	Olson, Eugene C, HMC, USN	MAL
Foster, John P, ETC, USN	060	Olson, Lawrence A, BM1, USN	136
Funke, Harold J, TMCM(SS), USN	382	Ouge, Joseph M, CMC, USN	290
Gallagher, Joseph F, MUC, USN	013	Owens, Dwayne, GMG1, USNR	041
Gallinger, Roy E, ADRC, USN	089	Page, John D, PR1, USN	091
Gilson, Richard H, BTCS, USN	276	Panning, Don, AEC, USN	024
Glass, Robert R, YNCS, USN	MAL	Pedrick, Henry D, ADR1, USN	010
Goldsmith, Terry K, PO1, USN	145	Penn, James Harold, YN1, USN	136
Graham, Charles M, BMC, USN	MAL	Perdue, Donald L, MMC, USN	249
Gubser, Charles S, HON Member, HON, USN	101	Pittman, Dwight E, FTCS, USN	022
		Prasol, John E., BMCS, USN	MAL
		Pulley, Clarence E, ADJ2, USN	099



NAME	BRANCH
Reader, Philip A, ABCM, USN	292
Reardon, James, BTC, USN	MAL
Reeves III, Harry J, SCPO, USN	130
Robancho, Rizal T, YNC, USN	008
Robinson, David G, LCDR, USN	091
Rock, Franklin H, TM2, USN	MAL
Rogers, James J, BM1, USN	269
Ross, George J, BM1, USN	192
Russ, Roger M, CWO4, USN	250
PRPNW, Russell, Theodore K, ENCM(SS), USN	029
Sampson, O, ICC, USN	MAL
Schmitz, Alphonse M, ST1, USN	091
Schreiber, Charles P, EN1, USN	291
Shull, James H, MMC, USN	063
Simon, Earl R, OSCS, USN	093
Simonson, John W, BTC, USN	009
Sklorenko, Walter T, AMCS, USN	MAL
Smith, Peter, USN	136
Smith, Marvin H, HMC, USN	MAL
Smith, John A, EMC, USN	MAL
Smith, William D, ADC, USN	104
Snead, George T, AZ1, USN	MAL
Spiten, Raymond I, ADR1, USN	289
Stevenson, Jerry L, MSCS, USN	161
Stewart, Doug D.,	029
Stringfield, Alvin E, DTC, USN	316
Stukey, Gene E, HMCM, USN	040
Stuvengen, Charles G, BMC, USN	376
Swift, Gerald M, CUCM, USN	276
Tobin, William A, CPO, USN	289
Travis, Billie W, ATC, USN	MAL
Villafranca, Mario A, CPO, USN	254
Vogel, Paul R, EMC, USN	061
Walke, Richard S, DTCS, USN	147
Ward, Marshall D, CAPT, USN	009
Webster, Alfred W., USN	136
Webster, Merle R, ATCS, USN	091
Whitney, Porter R, EMCM, USN	MAL
Wooton, Aaron, PRC, USN	061
Worth, James, YNC, USN	MAL
Yaksich, Sam, ADJ2, USN	124
Zettel, Ralph A, CAPT, USN	014

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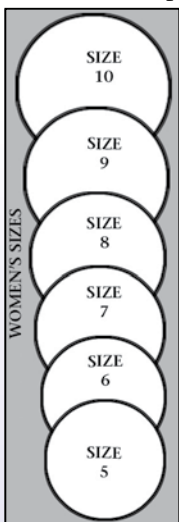


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Tanzanite is found in only one remote spot on Earth, and it's 1,000 times rarer than diamonds. Experts say the mines will soon run dry forever, but today you can own more than 1 carat for **less than \$50!**

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Our buyer recently secured a huge cache of beautiful rare tanzanite, the precious stone loved for its vivid violet-blue color. Today you can own over 1 carat of this rare stone (1,000 times rarer than diamonds) in our spectacular **1 1/5 ctw Tanzanite Cluster Ring** with a suggested retail of \$795 **for only \$49.50.**



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Message from Regional President Northeast

IT IS A LITTLE early into my duties of the Northeast Region since our year has just started; our region is small and has only three units but they do great things. I have talked with some of the members and they are doing okay. Regional Vice President Sue Hershberger also keeps in touch with some of the members.

The Northeast Region Units send cards and care packages to service personnel overseas and march in parades proudly carrying their Unit colors. They also volunteer at local hospitals, museums and historical societies. Some work in booths, coordinate games and sponsor trophies at car shows and community events. We also help at churches to collect food for the needy. The Units gave food gift certificates to local families for the Holidays and also gave gifts to the children at Christmas time.

We are very proud of our members who give of their time and energy to these worthwhile projects. I encourage each Unit to gain new members and keep the ones they have. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the FRA Auxiliary Annual Pilgrimage at Arlington National Cemetery on April 28, 2012, with your flags. The hotel for Pilgrimage is Westin Hotel, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. To make reservations call 1-800-937-8461 or 703-893-1340; be sure to mention the FRA/FRA Auxiliary. The room rates are \$104.00 plus tax. Deadline for reservations at this rate is March 20th, 2012.

To those who have lost a loved one, may your heart mend with time, love and support of family and friends. To those who are celebrating birthday and anniversaries, may you have many more.



SARA PIACENTINO
Northeast Regional President



Memorial Day, May 28, 2011
Wreath presentation at Brigadier General W.C. Doyle, Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, Arnetown, NJ, Sue Hershberger, RPNE, Aurora Semple, Unit 124 Chaplain, Sara Piacentino, RVPNE.



Veteran's Day, November 11, 2011
Members of LA FRA Unit 124, Lakehurst, NJ
Left to right: Betty Church, Unit 124, Vice President, Aurora Semple, Unit 124 Chaplain, Elizabeth Murphy, Sue Hershberger, RVPNE, Sara Piacentino, RPNE and Cecilia McConnell Unit 124.



Veteran's Day, November 11, 2011
Lake Horicon in Lakehurst, NJ
FRA RPNE David Munday and LA FRA RPNE Sara Piacentino presented a wreath in honor of our Veterans.



Branch and Unit 124 cook dinner once a month for members and their guests.



Veterans' Appreciation Day at Lakehurst Elementary School
FRA Branch 124 and LA FRA Unit 124 members were invited to the Lakehurst Elementary School for their Veterans' Appreciation Day. They are pictured above with the sixth grade.

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Our clients are never at risk of paying any fees, costs or expenses out of pocket. All legal fees, court costs and other expenses are paid by the client only out of any judgment or settlement in the case.

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1935 - 2008

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