

# Shipmate's 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  
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The Prez Sez:

Shipmates:

We are preparing for our Award Ceremony for the Americanism and Patriotism Essay writing contest, I encourage you all to attend. These young people are the future Leaders of our Country and I'm truly impressed every year with their efforts. I'd also like to give a **Bravo Zulu** to S/M Steve McCulloch and his volunteers for their stellar work. The Award Ceremony will be held at the **VFW Post 4809** in Norfolk on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> at **1800**. We continue to face major problems in our Branch, the

ongoing decline in Membership and the Bingo Volunteer shortage. If you have ideas, please share them with me or any of our Officers.

## Gabriel Falu

From the Vice President



We are continuing to try New Programs to grow our Branch, we should take a hint from our newly formed **LAFRA Unit 99**, they are growing while we are shrinking. The difference is they are **INVOLVED** and their Members are working hard to provide new programs and training for all of their members. We **NEED** to do some of this and I encourage you all to get involved with your Branch, Recruit new members and help develop new programs which will retain new members.

## Art Bailey



### Chaplains Corner

Shipmates:

We're approaching the Holiest time of year in the Christian Calendar, **LENT** and **EASTER**, Lent is the time we dedicate ourselves to the needy through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Almsgiving doesn't just mean donating money, the needy also need food, shelter, clothing and giving of your time. If you need help to determine what you can do, check with your Clergyman or contact me and I'll put you on

the right track. Easter is the time of renewal and rebirth where we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I wish all of you the best, God Bless!

if you're aware of any Shipmates in ill health or distress please advise me at the soonest.

God Bless,

## Rev Adrian

S/M Chaplain, Adrian Knight



### Veteran Service Officer:

Shipmates:

Each day in congress and the senate they are whittling away at our benefits. Please remember the **50%** retirement at the **20** year mark of service is one, **Our representatives slipped in on all of us.**

It is easy to keep up with all the bills, who your representative or senator are and the status of the bills in the house and senate. Go to **FRA.org**, click on the action center and all the bills and who your congressmen and senators are will be listed, and the status of bills and bills upcoming.

Up- coming dates -at the **VA** Medical Center Hampton for volunteers

**VAVS**, anyone can attend April 10,2019 at the domicile

Volunteer Appreciation Week April 15-19 2019 Building 83 reception April 17.

Country Fair May 1, 2019 Building 110 Front Lawn

July 4<sup>th</sup> Cookout July 4,2019 Building 148 Front Lawn

Useful numbers:

Tricare.mil Humana East Region

Select & Prime 1-800-444-5445

Tricare for Life 1-866-773-0404

**VA** Medical Center, Hampton 757-722-9961

**VA** Homeless hotline 877-424-3838

**VA** Crisis Line 800-273-8255

**VA** Volunteer 757-728-3124

Navy Marine Corp Relief Society Visiting Nurse 703-696-0032

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Branch Home or by my email.

[mgw1812@verizon.net](mailto:mgw1812@verizon.net).

**Martin G Wood**

## Woody

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### - Membership

A Warm Welcome to all new members of Branch **99**. Come to the next Branch meeting on March **13th** to meet your new Shipmates. Meetings are held at **1900** on the second Wednesday of each month. Please check your calendar. If you come you may win a **free meal**.

**S/M Vice President Art Bailey** reported there were **3** newly

joined, for a total of **643** active members.

- **TAPS**

**None Reported**

- **Hospital and Welfare**

S/M Long is in Concordia Rehab on Bonney Road in Virginia Beach. S/M Dan Cheche is in Rehab after suffering a stroke, S/M Bill Griffith is undergoing treatment for cancer, Members urged to contact the President or Chaplain for members hospitalized. There is a board in the Mess that will be used for Hospitalizations, Sick, and Rehab notifications if you know of someone and haven't heard the word put out please put the information there so that everyone can be informed. Also, S/M Chaplain Knight reminds us all that Shipmates learning of one of our fellow Shipmates illness or need of assistance to please contact him.

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- **BINGO**

John Royal is our new Bingo Manager. BINGO is our primary moneymaker and we can't afford to let it die. we're always looking for volunteers to help. If you have time, stop by and give them a hand!

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- **BUDGET and FINANCE**

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

**KEMPSVILLE BRANCH 99**

A TWO BELL CEREMONY Was held, by S/M Chaplain Adrian Knight and S/M MAA Dave Moser, in Honor of Shipmates who have joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER.**

The Branch Home Committee advised all that we will be having

Quarterly Dinners in March, July, November and December, Menus and Themes were not available at Press Time. More to follow.

- **Coming Events:**

10 Mar- Daylight Savings Time begins  
13 Mar- Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM  
13 Mar- Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM  
17 Mar- St Patrick's Day  
21 Mar- First Day of Spring

01 Apr- April Fools' Day  
10 Apr- Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM  
10 Apr- Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM  
15 Apr- Tax Day  
19 Apr- Good Friday  
20 Apr- Passover  
21 Apr- Easter  
22 Apr- Earth Day

05 May- Cinco De Mayo  
08 May- Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM  
08 May- Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM  
12 May- Mother's Day  
27 May- Memorial Day celebrated

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

**Cheeseburger In Paradise**  
739 Lynnhaven Pkwy. Virginia Beach.  
**Texas Road House**  
South Independence Blvd, Virginia Beach  
**Waffle Town USA**  
Pleasure House Road at Shore Drive, Virginia Beach  
**Virginia Steakhouse**

620 First Colonial Rd, Virginia Beach  
**Golden Corral**  
Independence Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA  
**Pembroke Pizza**  
633 Independence Blvd

We appreciate the support of these participating restaurants, so when you are dining out, patronize them. And if you go to one of them with a free meal coupon, remember to tip the waiter for the full value of the check, before the discount. (he/she is working hard for a living and is not the one donating the free meal.) Remember to thank the manager on your way out, on behalf of Kempsville Branch 99, FRA.

**Other Merchants supporting this program are:**  
**Priority Ford**, North Military Hwy, Norfolk, VA

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**SHIPMATES' REPORT**

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Monthly meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of the month

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**News from the LAFRA Unit 99**



## President LAFRA-Unit 99

On Friday, Feb.15th, six of our **Unit 99 Ladies**, Joyce Meeker, Dorothy Smiley, Mary Kenney, Teresa Harrison, Cat Elcott and Mary Whitney, traveled to Richmond for the Mid-Year Meeting. Chris Dixon **ECRP** Chairman was introduced by Co-Chairman Joyce Meeker for a day of learning. We had **3** sessions in the morning, one lead by our own **ECRS** Dorothy Smiley. In the afternoon all of us taught the group, of about **35**, how to make lap blankets. Six were sold in support of the upcoming Regional in July. Mary Kenny presented the National President with a basket, blanket and check from **Unit 99** for the Presidents Project and Mary Whitney presented our Regional President a basket we made and a blanket. We are grateful for the opportunity that was given from our **FRA Branch 99**.

Hope to see you next month, which will be **13 March**.

## Joyce Meeker

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### Americanism and Patriotism Essay Contest winners:

**FRA Branch 99** will hold their Americanism- Patriotism Awards Night on 01 March at the **VFW Post 4809** in Norfolk, the winners include:

Alexandra Garcia 12 1<sup>st</sup> Kellam  
Catalina Mayer 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Run  
Madison Landreth 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Tab Bapt  
Lily Tomlinson 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Home sch

Charles Grant 11 1<sup>st</sup> Churchland  
Rilian Fernandes 11 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Sch  
Olivia Hayes 11 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Run

Lee McCulloch 10 1<sup>st</sup> Green Run  
Katherine Gilmore 10 2<sup>nd</sup> Greenbriar  
Emily Turner 10 2<sup>nd</sup> Churchland

Isabel Odewald 9 1<sup>st</sup> Home Sch  
Nathan Mallette 9 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Run  
Zadeyah Broadbent 9 3<sup>rd</sup> GR

Madison Murphy 8 1<sup>st</sup> Lynnhaven  
Zoe Rodenas 8 2<sup>nd</sup> St Matthew  
Max Belote 8 3<sup>rd</sup> Lynnhaven

Addy Roberts 7 1<sup>st</sup> Lynnhaven  
Kaitlyn Calkin 7 2<sup>nd</sup> VB Middle  
Noah Avis 7 3<sup>rd</sup> St Matthew

The Overall Winner was not selected at the time of print. All First Place Winners will compete in Regional Round.

**News of Interest to Veterans VA to Implement Appeals Modernization Act Next Week:** Beginning Feb. 19, all Veterans who disagree with their **VA** rating decision with have three new options to resolve their benefit dispute: request a higher-level review from a more experienced person, submit a supplemental claim with additional evidence, or appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Over the past two years, the **FRA** worked closely with **VA** and other veterans' organizations to craft this new framework, which was authorized by the **FRA**-supported Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. The goal of the new system is to offer veterans greater flexibility and transparency to resolve benefit disputes in a timely manner, instead of waiting years for **VA** to adjudicate their appeals. For assistance appealing a decision on your benefits claim, contact a highly trained and accredited **FRA** Service Officer.

**Military Family Housing Horrors** Recent testimony from three military spouses before a joint hearing of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, and Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support revealed military family housing horrors ranging from insects and rodents to asbestos and lead-based paint. Testimony was also given by five company **CEOs** and/or presidents, who collectively manage some **200,000** family housing units throughout the military; and four assistant **DOD, Army, Navy, and Air Force Secretaries**, who are responsible for installation oversight. To the **FRA**, the dismissive attitude of Housing Contractors and Installation Commanders, who may have thought their days of listening to housing complaints were over when the military signed **50-year** contracts with civilian management companies in the mid-**1990s**, was egregious. It was clear from testimony and ensuing **Q&A** sessions that all Military Installation Commands must take an active role in contract fulfillment, oversight and customer satisfaction, and families need an effective forum to communicate their issues with housing authorities and installation commanders without fear of retribution. The **FRA** will continue to monitor this issue to ensure the Military and their Contractors make good on their pledges to perform and communicate better.

**Veterans Groups Say \$103 Billion in VA Funding Needed for FY 2020:** The three coauthors of The Independent Budget (**IB**) The **VFW, DAV** and Paralyzed Veterans of America — released the **IB's** fiscal year (**FY**) **2020** budget recommendations for **VA**. The **IB** coauthors recommend a total of **\$103.3 Billion** to ensure **VA** begins to fully and faithfully

implement the **VA MISSION Act** of 2018, make needed improvements, and is able to timely deliver benefits and services to wounded, ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors.

**VA** to Implement High Tech Training Program: In anticipation of launching the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (**VET TEC**) program in April, **VA** is seeking training providers to help implement this new training course. The **VET TEC** program will provide training on information technology, computer software, information science, media application, data processing and computer programming fields. The **VET TEC** program was part of the **FRA**-supported **Forever GI Bill** that made sweeping reforms to education and training programs for veterans.

**VA** to Receive Three New Fisher Houses: **VA** announced that it is scheduled to receive three new buildings from the Fisher House Foundation. The new Facilities will be located in Ann Arbor, Mich., Aurora, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The Fisher House Foundation donates Housing Facilities to **VA** and the Military to act as a “home away from home” for Active Duty Military, Veterans, and their Families when receiving treatment at a **VA** Medical Facility or Major Military Installation. These

Facilities are located within walking distance from Treatment Facilities and provide cost-free housing. Currently, there are **80** Fisher Houses around the world — **38** are located next to **VA** facilities. An expansion from **38** to **64** is planned over the next few years.

**MIA** Update: This week, the Defense **POW/MIA** Accounting Agency announced new ident-

ifications. Returning home with full military honors are:

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class William A. **Klasing** was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Klasing. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Edward J. **Shelden** was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Shelden. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Kirby R. **Stapleton** was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen,

including Stapleton. Interment services are pending.

Seaman 1st Class John A. Karli was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Karli. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Kenneth H. **Sampson** was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Sampson. Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Pvt. Waldean **Black** was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Black. Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Ted **Hall** was stationed aboard the **USS Oklahoma**, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on **Dec. 7, 1941**. The Battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Hall. Interment services are pending.