

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:
Summer is over and vacations are done, time to get back to work.

We're still dealing with losses in Membership, we need to do something different if we're going to survive as a Branch; if you have any ideas please share them with me or any of our Officers. Our **Annual 4th Of July Picnic** was a huge success, Just seems to get better every year. Bravo Zulu to the Picnic Committee.

Gabriel Falu

From the Vice President



We continue to lose membership and we need to do something to increase our retention. A lot of our members are unable to attend meetings since they don't drive because of their age and infirmities, if you know of someone who would like to attend our meetings and functions but are unable, please consider giving them a ride, you may need this service in the future.

I encourage you all to get involved with your Branch we need your help!

SKI



Chaplains Corner

Shipmates:

This is the time of year when children are going back to school so please be aware and pay closer attention to your driving, the youngsters sometimes dart into the road. Just be a little more careful!

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:

I attended the VAVS meeting last Wednesday. The medical director gave a short presentation about a number of things.

Mission Act: Program started June 6, 2019 replacing the choice program; It is **20** days for primary care; **28** days for specialty care; **20** days for mental health. Speak to your primary care doctor before going outside. Email address for the mission act is MISSIONActHampton@va.thBgov.

Health Benefits Services has moved to Bldg 110B in front of the revolving doors to Bldg 137 (old waiting area for mental health services). Mental Health services have been moved to bldg.144.

Virginia Beach **CBOC** expansion is almost complete. And **CBOC** is targeted for expansion for the year **2020**. The multi **CBOC** bldg. is in planning stage with a target date of **3** to **5** years. (**CBOC** is Community Based Outreach Clinic).

In the future there is talk in **2021** to base a **CBOC** in Portsmouth and Suffolk.

As of **October 1** the VA campus will be **smoke free**.

Looking for **Volunteers** for Red Vest Escort.

The VA in Hampton is having a day of caring **September 12, 2019**.

The VA has a summer program for young adults and looking for donation of **\$50** per child for deserving scholarships.

September is Suicide Prevention Month volunteers are needed to man tables call 757-728-3124.

Shipmates important numbers

DAV driver is 728-3148

VA patient Advocate
757-722-9961 ext. 3763

Veterans crisis line
1-800-272-8255 press 1 or text 838255

VA tele-a-nurse 722-9961 opt 3

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.

Martin G Wood

Woody

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership

A Warm Welcome to all new members of Branch 99. Come to the next Branch meeting on **September 11th** 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 SKI reported there were **0** newly joined, for a total of **582** active members.

2019 – 2020 Americanism Essay Contest

Shipmates the Americanism Essay Contest for **2019-2020** has been announced. The theme for this years Contest is:

“What My Vote Will Mean to Me”

Eligibility:
Students, Grades 7 thru 12

Entrants must be sponsored by a branch of the **FRA** or a unit of the Ladies Auxiliary

350 words or less on theme designated

Essay shall be legibly written or typed on one side of paper (Recommend 12 font)

One entry per student each year

Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet stating: the entrant's name, address, zip code, telephone number, email, school grade, name of school or the words “home schooled”, number of words in essay and sponsoring branch/unit or sponsor's name.

Deadline:

All entries shall be postmarked not later than December 2, 2019. Our branch mailing address is: 357 Edwin Dr. Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Or email
frabranh99@gmail.com

Prizes:

Branch Prizes in each grade level along with a Plaque, and Participation Certificate are:

First Place \$500

Second Place \$400

Third Place \$300

An **Overall Winner** is selected from the **first place winners** and will be awarded an additional **\$1000**

Additional contest information, cover sheet and rules can be found on our website www.fra99.org or contact **Steve McCulloch** at (757) 572-2584, e-mail frabranh99@gmail.com

- TAPS

None reported

- Hospital and Welfare

Please keep S/Ms **SCHWERES, LONG, WOODS** and S/M **WOODS** Wife in your Prayers.

Members are 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.

- 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!

- 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.

All Shipmates are asked to write a personal Bio and submit it to S/M **Quinn** who will include them in our Newsletter, feel free to be as detailed as you want.

Comments from Member/Guests: Boy Scout **REPs**, **DEBBIE** and **KATY** informed all that the Scout Calendar runs from September to June. The boys will be having a Wreath Fundraiser in addition to their popcorn sales.

The Branch Members are welcome to come the Hampton VA **Cemetery** on **14 December** to help place the wreaths.

Scouts will be marching with the Branch in the Veterans Day Parade.

If the Branch has any Community Service Projects that we would like to have the Scout assist, please let them know.

Branch Members are always welcome to attend the Scout Meetings so they know that we support them.

Drawing for one Free Life Membership – S/M **Nicole Robinson**, **Not Present**

Drawing for one year, Free Membership S/M **Steve McCulloch**, **Present.**

Congratulations!!

- Coming Events:

- 02 Sept- Labor Day**
11 Sept-Branch meeting at Branch at 7PM
11 Sept- Auxiliary Meeting at Branch at 7PM
11 Sept- Patriot Day
23 Sept- First Day of Autumn
- 09 Oct- Branch meeting at Branch at 7PM**
09 Oct- Auxiliary meeting at Branch at 7PM
14 Oct- Columbus Day
- 03 Nov- Day Light Saving time ends**
11 Nov- Veterans Day
13 Nov- Branch meeting at Branch at 7PM
13 Nov- Auxiliary meeting at Branch at 7PM
28 Nov- Thanksgiving Day

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

News from the LAFRA Unit 99



President LAFRA-Unit 99

LAFRA Ladies would like to thank all our supporters. Through fundraising, we were able to attend this year's Regional Convention with great success. We had five ladies attend with the opportunity to head up a portion of the business meeting. All five ladies were on the Chairman Committee for awards and reports. We also were apart of heading a game of charades that our branch President and Secretary were a part of. This we must do this again, we had so much fun. The LAFRA won **1st place** for Unit Report, Hospital/VAVs, Publicity and Welfare/Rehabilitation. We won **2nd place** for Youth activities and Unit Activities. We also won **3rd place** for Americanism/Patriotism. Last, we are proud to announce we won the **Elsie B. Cooley Welfare Award**. We are

looking forward to this upcoming year starting with our Thanksgiving Feast at the Branch **November 28th, 2019**, on **Thanksgiving Day** starting at **2 pm**. Last year we fed and gave blankets to **63 Veterans**. With the help of other organizations that were invited along with our branch members, it was a great success. We look forward to seeing you there and your support.

Hope to see you at our next meeting which will be **11 September**.

Joyce Meeker

SHIPMATES' REPORT

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The Branch Home is at 357 Edwin Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 next to Lake Trashmore.

Tel: 757-499-6650 and 499-1155.

Internet: www.fra99.org

Monthly meetings are held on the **Second Wednesday of the month**

From the Editor:



This is our first publishing of Biographies of Shipmates, If you wish to be included in future editions of the Newsletter, please contact me at telephone 757-376-8698 or email at

mlt_quinn@verizon.net

Robert J. Coffin was born on Staten Island, Richmond County, New York 10/25/1942

St. Patrick's Elementary School. Staten Island, New York

New Dorp High School, Staten Island, New York
College of Lake County, Libertyville, IL (05/76 – 03/78)

Southern Illinois University, Great Lakes, IL **BSOE** (06/76 – 03/78)

U.S. Navy (09/60 – 08/01/87)

Sea Duty

USS Vulcan AR-5 Norfolk, VA (12/60 – 06/61) SA/SN
USS Proteus AS – 19 Holy Loch, Scotland (03/62 – 09/63) ETNSN/ETN3
USS Edward McDonnell DE – 1043 Algiers, LA/Charleston,

SC/Norfolk, VA (11/64 – 06/66) ETN2
USS Luce DLG – 7 Philadelphia, Pa/ Newport, RI (10/70 – 06/72) ET1/ETC
USS Vreeland DE 1068 Charleston, SC/Elefsina, Greece (07/72 – 06/75) ETC
USS Texas CGN – 39 Norfolk, VA (03/81 – 03/83) CWO3
USS Caron DD-970 Norfolk, VA (03/83 – 11/85) CWO4

Shore Duty:

USNTC Great Lakes, IL Boot Camp (09/60 -11/60) SA/SN
USNTC Great Lakes, IL ET A School (07/61 – 03/62) SN/ETNSN

USNTC Treasure Island, CA (03/64 – 10/64) ETN3

Armed Forces Southern Europe, IT (06/66 – 06/69) ETN2/ET1

USNTC Great Lakes, IL ET B School (07/69 – 10/70) ET1

USNTC Great Lakes, IL IT School (07/75 – 09/75)

USNTC Great Lakes, IL Instructor/Director ET A Phase II

(
Special Assistant to Director ET Schools (01/78 – 03/78) CWO2
US NAVFAC Argentia, Newfoundland, Canada (06/78 – 06/81) CWO2
USNTC Dam Neck, VA NTDS School (07/81 – 09/81) CWO2

USNTC Norfolk, VA IT School (12/85 – 02/86) CWO4

USNTC Norfolk VA ET Schools Director PEMO/ CSEA Course (12/85 – 08/87) CWO4

Married to the former Sarina Sue Iovino (02 – 65), three children Ruth and Julie born in Italy and Amy born in Great Lakes, IL

Civilian employment:

Computer Dynamics Inc.
Princess Anne Middle School
Technical Education teacher

Independence Middle School
Technical Education teacher

Clear the Deck Inc.

Shipmate Coffin has been very active in **FRA** Branch **99** as well as the Corporation

News of Interest to Veterans

Senators Push for Elimination of Widows Tax

Senators Doug Jones (Ala.) and Susan Collins (Maine) recently sent a bipartisan letter - co-signed by **64** of their Senate colleagues - to the chairmen and ranking members of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees calling on them to ensure the House-passed provisions to repeal the **SBP/DIC** offset (Military Widow's Tax) remains in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act (**NDAA-HR 2500-S. 1790**). Senators Jones and Collins were unsuccessful in their efforts in June to amend the Senate **NDAA**. However, the House **NDAA** includes this **FRA-**

supported provision. The final bill is currently being negotiated between the House and the Senate. The final bill will be voted on by both chambers and if approved will go to the President to be signed into law or vetoed.

If signed into law, this legislation will repeal the unfair law that prevents as many as **67,000** surviving military spouses nationwide from receiving their full Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs survivor benefits. Currently, military widows and widowers who qualify for the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (**DIC**) are forced to take a dollar-for-dollar offset from the Survivors Benefits Plan (**SBP**) benefit, even though retirees elected to pay into the program.

Legislation to repeal the Military Widow's Tax has been repeatedly introduced in the Senate and House over the past 18 years, but this is the first time this provision has been included a bill that has passed either chamber of Congress.

FRA members can weigh in on this issue through the FRA Action Center located on the [FRA website](#). This issue is listed in the campaign at the top of the page entitled: "Ask Senators to Support House **NDAA** Provisions."

DHA will Manage DoD Healthcare

Effective Oct. 1, 2019 the Department of Defense will begin consolidating military hospitals and clinics under a single agency. The Army, Navy and Air Force will begin a two year transition to shift administration and management of their medical facilities to the Defense Health Agency (**DHA**) by October 2021.

"For the first time in our modern

military's history, a single agency, the **DHA**, will be responsible for all the health care the Department of Defense delivers to our 9.5 million beneficiaries," Bono said. "Whether you receive your care at an on-base facility or through our **TRICARE** civilian networks, **DHA** will oversee your care. This consolidation will drive higher levels of readiness for operational and medical forces and integrate health care services to standardize practices across the entire Department, which means patients will have a consistent, high-quality health care experience, no matter where they receive their care."

This change was mandated in the National Defense Authorization Act (**NDAA**) of **2017** that included sweeping changes to military healthcare. Congress, among other changes, wanted a single agency to be responsible for the administration and management of all military hospitals and clinics. **DHA** will be responsible for health care delivery and business operations across the Military Health System including budgets, information technology, health care administration and management, administrative policies and procedures, and military medical construction.

The **FRA** will monitor the consolidation process to ensure that access and quality of care will not be reduced for beneficiaries.

President Orders Loan Forgiveness for Some Disabled Veterans

President Donald Trump recently issued a presidential memorandum requiring the Department of Education to eliminate the federal student loan debt of **100 percent permanently disabled veterans**. "The debt of these disabled veterans will be entirely

erased. It will be gone. They will sleep well tonight," said President Trump. Veterans who are **100 percent disabled** are currently eligible to have their federal student loan debt entirely expunged, but government officials have struggled to get all eligible veterans to take advantage of the program. Essentially the memorandum is an effort to make loan forgiveness automatic, putting the impetus of clearing the debt on federal agencies instead of veterans.

SVAC Chairman Announces He Will Resign from Senate

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Senator **Johnny Isakson** has announced that he will step down from serving as Georgia's senior Senator on Dec. 31, 2019. He served in the Georgia National Guard (1966-1972). He was re-elected to the Senate in 2016. He announced in June 2015 he had Parkinson's disease and insisted it would not impact his ability to serve as Senator that included serving as Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

He was elected state representative in **1976** after losing two years earlier. He ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Georgia in **1990**, and was elected to state senate in **1992**. In **1996** he lost a Republican primary race for U.S. Senate. He was elected to Congress in a special election when Newt Gingrich resigned from Congress in **1999**. In **2004** he was elected to the U.S. Senate when the incumbent Senator retired.



Our newest Members S/Ms **Dan and Amy Rushing** with S/M President **Gabriel Falu**



S/M President **Gabriel Falu** setting up the Grill for the 4th of July Picnic



Checking the Phone!!



Ladies Auxiliary President Joyce Meeker welcoming Members to our 4th of July Picnic.



Waiting in Line!!



Ladies Auxiliary items for Sale!