

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 progressing well in our work, our VSO is doing some

very important work for veterans in need. Veteran's Day is almost here and we're making plans at this time. I like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving Day and a Merry Christmas. Hope you all stay safe and enjoy this special time of the year. 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



This time of year is referred to as the Holiday Season, so many things happening, Veteran's Day, thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Years. We always tend to think of Family at this time but we also need to remember those less fortunate among us who won't be celebrating if we don't do our part in helping them. We'll be having a Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the Branch, (hosted by the **LAFRA**) for Homeless Veterans, I encourage you to attend. And, don't forget our Veteran's Day Parade, please attend if possible!

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:

The Department of Veterans Affairs will not fall all over themselves to help your loved ones after you pass away. If you think you have a service connected disability now is the time to apply.

After you have passed away it is more difficult to apply for a service connected disability and for your surviving loved ones to

receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation, (**DIC**). Unless you elected for **S.B.P.** (Survivor Benefits Program) the **VA** may be all that your surviving loved ones may have to live on.

You may apply at the state of Virginia department of veteran's services:

Pembroke Office Park
287 Independence Blvd
Pembroke tow Suite 130
VA Beach, VA 23462
Phone 757-552-1884
757-552-1885
Fax 757-552-1882

To receive your military records, you must fill out **SF180**, S/M **President** Falu has the **SF180** forms in the branch home office or you may go online to www.archives.gov. Phone 314-801-0800 toll free 1-866-276-6272 fax 314-801-9195. Bring any and all medical records and service records when you apply.

Apply now for **VA** medical care it takes about **30** minutes and 5weeks to receive your **VA** card but you will be in the system. You apply at the health benefits desk as you enter the main door to the clinic at the **VA** Medical Center Hampton.

Shipmates please, please inform your loved ones where your important documents are: **DD214**, wills, power of attorney etc.

Here are important numbers and web page for **Veterans** and **Tricare** benefits:

Main Webpage Tricare.mil
Humana East Region
(select & prime) 1-800-444-5445

I'm very pleased with the efforts of our **Branch Officers** and the Officers of the **LAFRA Unit 99** in moving us in the right direction and working hard to improve our organization. I'm also encouraging you all to get involved in your **Branch** and the **FRA** in general. The **LAFRA Unit 99** is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for our Homeless Veterans, you should mark your calendar and plan to attend if possible. We also have a new **VSO** (Woody) he has a lot of information that pertains to all Veterans.

Art Bailey



Chaplains Corner

Shipmates:

Tricare for Life 1-866-773-0404
Tricare Dental Retiree
1-888-838-8737
VA Medical Center Hampton VA
757-722-9961
VA homeless hotline
877-424-3838
VA crisis line 800-273-8255
VA volunteer 757-728-3124

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

mgw1812@verizon.net

Martin G Wood

Woody



A note from Your Editor:

Know your Shipmate:

Our New Branch President is Gabriel Falu

PS1 (SW/AW) Gabriel Falu

United States Navy (Retired)
Gabriel Falu is a native of the Bronx, N. Y.
He e



enlisted in the United States Navy through the Delayed Entry Program in March 1991 at the age of 21. He reported to Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois.

For boot camp 05 Sept. 1991. His first assignment was to: **USS Saginaw (LST 1188)** as a Deck Seaman.
USS George Washington (CVN 74), Norfolk, VA.,
Personnel Support Detachment Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA.
Personnel Support Detachment Sewell's Point, Norfolk, VA,
Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM 14), Norfolk, VA
Deployable Medical Systems Portsmouth, VA,
USS Nassau (LHA 4), Norfolk, VA
USS Cape St. George (CG 71), Norfolk, VA
Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic, Norfolk, VA.
Throughout his career he has served as:**Deputy Disbursing Officer Personnel Officer and Leading Petty Officer.**

PSI Falu's Personal Awards and Achievements include:
Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2),
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3)
Navy Unit Commendation,
Meritorious Unit Commendation
Navy "E" Ribbon(3)
Navy Good Conduct Medal (5),
National Defense Medal (2),
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Star
South West Asia Service Medal,
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal with Bronze Star
Humanitarian Service Medal
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with Bronze Star
United Nations Medal (Former Yugoslavia)
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
Navy Pistol (Sharpshooter),
Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS)
Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS).

With his military training he has been involved with various organizations, He has been nominated and elected to be Kempsville Branch **99** newest President. With the support of the Branch Members he plans to have a successful upcoming year. A reminder, if you are tasked with providing an input for the newsletter, I need to have it **2 weeks** prior to publication!

Michael L. T. Quinn
Newsletter Editor

Q

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership**

A Warm Welcome to all new members of Branch **99**. Come to the next Branch meeting on November **14th** 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 Norfolk General Hospital, more information as it becomes available. **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 hospital-ized. There is a board in the Mess that will be used for Hosp-italizations, 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**

Bingo is in dire need of additional managers to allow us to continue. We've been relying on **ONE** Manager for too long. We're getting close to actually lose our **BINGO** owing to a lack of a 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! We still need one more. **BINGO** Manager

- **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.

AWARDS CEREMONY

S/M KENNEY
S/M CHARLES
S/M MCDANIELS.

Drawing for Life Membership
S/M Paul Major (not present)

Drawing for 1 year Membership
S/M Steve McCulloch

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

Comments from Guest/Members S/M McDaniels informed us that she was resigning as the Rental Manager and S/M Vaughan will be the new Rental Manager

S/M brought up discussion about Nametags. After discussion S/M McCulloch moved to go with the Blue Badges we currently wear **2ND** by S/M Holt. Voted and passed.

We need a Volunteer for **Mess Manager**.

S/M Filipowski informed us that Kohls, Texas Steakhouse, Harris Teeter and The Norfolk Outlet Shops have reserved parking for Veterans.

KATY who was attending the meeting representing the Scouts said they are looking for ways that the Scouts and FRA Members can start supporting each other.

- **Coming Events:**

- 04 Nov- Daylight Saving Time ends
- 06 Nov- Election Day
- 10 rine Corps Birthday
- 11 Nov- Veteran's Day
- 12 Nov- Veteran's Day observed
- 14 Nov-Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM
- 14 Nov-Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM
- 22 Nov- Thanksgiving Day
- 07 Dec- Pearl Harbor Day
- 12 Dec-Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM
- 12 Dec-Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM
- 21 Dec- First Day of Winter
- 24 Dec- Christmas Eve
- 25 Dec- Christmas Day
- 26 Dec- Kwanza
- 31 Dec- New Year's Eve

- 01 Jan- New Year's Day
- 09 Jan- Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM
- 09 Jan- Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM
- 21 Jan- Martin Luther King 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 veterans 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

SHIPMATES' REPORT

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Monthly meetings are held on the
Second Wednesday of the month

News from the LAFRA Unit 99



President LAFRA-Unit 99

LAFRA Unit 99 Members recently attended a Training Workshop with **Unit 40** Members, the training consisted of recruitment, sharing ideas, creating standing rules and more, We will meet bi-weekly

On November 3rd Members will attend a Craft Event with **Unit 93** with Shirley Vatter in **Maryland**

The plan is to unite with with **Hampton Roads Units** to show support for each other

On November 22nd **Unit 99** will Host a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Branch, **ALL** are invited. Please feel free to bring a dish

Hope to see you next month, which will be **14 November**.

Joyce Meeker

News of Interest to Veterans

Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation: Michael "Rod" Rodriguez, an Army veteran was

recently named President and **CEO** of the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, provided an update on the foundation's progress. "Building a memorial is a 24-step process," Rodriguez said. "We are on steps 9 through 12, which is site selection. Site selection involves the foundation itself coming together with a program and going before the various commissions that exist within this area." Rodriguez says the **GWOT** Memorial Foundation is trying to raise **\$50 million** for the project, which received the support of President Trump in August 2017 when he signed the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act into law.

Washington State Named Test Location for **\$10B VA** Medical Records Project: VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced that Washington State will be a test location for a **\$10 billion** project to convert all **VA** medical records into electronic form. "Washington state has the perfect mix of active duty, technical infrastructure, rural components, and a large number of veterans," Wilkie said during a recent visit to Fairchild Air Base in Spokane, according to The Spokesman-Review. "So what we are doing here in Washington, we are testing out the medical health records, which is the largest program the **VA** has ever undertaken. We are going to test it here in Spokane. That will be the template for the entire country."

TRICARE Prime and Select Open Season: Beginning on **Nov. 12**, **TRICARE** will kick off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for **2019**. The open season period will last until **Dec. 10** and any changes made during this period will become effective on **Jan. 1, 2019**. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will

continue automatically for **2019**, as long as you remain eligible for coverage. Find out more about the open season and how to modify your existing health plan.

Korea Update: On Thursday, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Command announced that as a part of a compromise reached in September, troops and weapons have been removed from the Joint Security Area near the village of Panmunjom. This disarmament was one of the many conditions agreed to last month during a summit between the defense ministers of the two Koreas and the U.N. Command. Additional provisions include creating buffer zones, land and sea boundaries, establishing a no-fly zone above the border, removing some of their front-line guard posts and opening the Joint Security Area up to tourists. Earlier this month North and South Korea began a separate demining operation near **Hill 281**, also known as **Arrowhead Hill**. Once demining operations have been completed, joint operations will begin in order to recover the remains of more than **300** sets of **U.S., Korean and U.N. allies** believed to be buried there. General Vincent Brooks, Commander for U.S. Forces Korea and U.N. Command, applauded the action stating that, "The area around this hill contains the fallen from several countries, and returning them to their countries and families is a top priority for me."

DOD Sending Active Duty Forces to U.S. Border: On Thursday, the Associated Press reported that President Trump directed the Secretary of Defense to deploy **800** active duty soldiers to the U.S./Mexico border. Currently, there are approximately **2,000** National Guard soldiers supporting the U.S. Border Patrol with logistics,

communications, and administrative support. However, it is unclear what role the active duty forces will play in the overall border security operation since federal law prohibits them from conducting law enforcement activities inside the U.S. unless specifically authorized by Congress.

VA, Partners Offer Flu Shot: Veterans enrolled in VA and in need of their flu shot can receive it at their nearest VA Health Care Facility or their local Walgreens. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VA and Doctors suggest all individuals get their flu shot during the fall. This is particularly true for individuals over the age of **65**, pregnant women, caregivers of infants or family members with health problems, health care employees, and people with heart problems and other chronic illnesses or conditions. Learn more about the flu shot or locate the nearest location to receive one.

MIA Update: This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced **5** new identifications, and the burial date and location for **3** previously identified servicemen. Returning home with full military honors are:

Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, 32, of Vernon, Ind., whose remains were previously identified, was buried Oct. 27 in Greenwood, Ind. McDaniel was a medic with the 8th Cavalry Regiment Medical Company supporting the regiment's 3rd Battalion. In **November 1950**, his unit was engaged with enemy forces of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) southwest of the village of Unsan, and east of Hwaong-ri, North Korea. He was reported missing in action on **Nov. 2, 1950**, when he could not be accounted for by his unit.

Army Sgt. James K. Park, 20, of Beaumont, Texas, whose remains were previously identified, was buried Oct. 27 in Barry, Texas. Park was a member of Company I, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. On **Nov. 23, 1944**, Park was declared missing in action after being wounded while his unit was engaged in fierce fighting within the Hürtgen Forest in Germany. Soldiers from Park's company attempted to search for him, but were prevented from doing so due to sustained fighting in the area. On **Nov. 24, 1945**, his status was amended to **deceased**.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Paul D. Gilman, 19, of Belen, N.M., whose remains were previously identified, was buried Oct. 26 in his hometown. Gilman was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of **Betio** in the **Tarawa Atoll** of the Gilbert Islands. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately **1,000** Marines and Sailors were killed and more than **2,000** were wounded. Gilman died on the first day of the battle, **Nov. 20, 1943**.

Mr. George L. Ritter an employee of **Air America Incorporated**, was piloting an **Air America C-123K** from Udorn Airfield, Kingdom of Thailand, headed for Xienhom District, Xaingnabouli Province, Laos. The aircraft was on a routine resupply mission for U.S. Agency for International Development and was last heard from when they were northeast of Sayaboury, Laos. Search and rescue efforts were continued through **Dec. 31, 1971**, but no sign of the aircraft or the four crewmembers were found. Ritter was subsequently reported missing. Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Sgt. Dwight W. Randall was a member of Company C, 2nd Amphibian Tractor Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of **Betio** in the **Tarawa Atoll** of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately **1,000** Marines and Sailors were killed and more than **2,000** were wounded, but the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Randall died on the first day of the battle, **Nov. 20, 1943**. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Angelo M. Gabriele was assigned to the Battleship **USS West Virginia**, which was moored at **Ford Island, Pearl Harbor**, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **106** crewmen, including Gabriele. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Grant C. Cook, Jr. 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 Cook. Interment services are pending. Read about Cook.



Branch 99's Newest Member
S/M Flavin w/ S/M Secretary
Falu.

Welcome Aboard!



S/M Johnson receives an
Award for Service rendered
with S/M Kenney

Bravo Zulu!



**LAFRA Unit 99 President
Meeker at Training Workshop**



**S/M Charles and S/M
McDaniels receive Awards.**

Congratulations to all of these
Shipmates for their efforts and
going above and beyond the
normal day to day work of the
Branch.

We're very proud of you all

Keep up the Good Work!



New Rental Manager S/M
Vaughan with S/M Secretary
Falu and S/M McDaniels



S/M Kenney Receives an
Award with S/M President
Falu.

Congratulations!