# 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 DAYTIME OFFICE PHONES: 499-6650/499-1155 BRANCH WEB SITE: www.fra99.org

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**The Prez Sez:** 

Shipmates:

We are starting a New Year and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. If you missed our Christmas Party, you missed a good one, I encourage you all to attend these functions. 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



As we start the New Year, I'm encouraged by the efforts of our **Branch Officers** and **Officers** of the **LAFRA Unit 99** in the past year, we have many accomplishments that you should all be proud of and I'm certain that this will continue in the coming year, **Bravo Zulu** to all of you!

# Art Bailey



**Chaplains Corner** Shipmates:

I wish all of you a Very Happy and Safe New Year, Please keep in mind those less fortunate members of Society and do what you can to help them. If you need advice on what to do contact your Clergyman or see me. There are many ways to help and it doesn't all require money!

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:

In this Christmas and New Year time of year, these are happy times for most of us Shipmates. However, some Shipmates have Anxiety, Depression etc. Shipmates we all have given too much time on this earth to just walk away from it now.

If you need help there are many places you can reach out for help. Your church, your doctor even the local emergency department. There is no shame!

Another place is the CBOC (VA clinic in Chesapeake) it is located at 1987 S Military Hwy in Chesapeake. They have a Walkin group ongoing to assist Veterans with their issues for which they are trying to cope. The group meets Wednesdays at 1300

There is also the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 press 1. Or VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255. This is a confidential crisis chat line.

If you have a **VA** Primary care doctor and you and your wife are both ill at the same time the **VA** will provide a visiting nurse. The Navy-Marine Corps relief society also have a visiting nurse program. To call 703-696-0032 email <u>visitingnurse@nmcrs.org</u> or call your local NMCRS office

visit <u>www.nmcrs.org/vn</u> for location near you.

There is an address to file for disability 100 Emancipation Drive Building 43 room 114 H a m p t o n Va. Phone 757-722-9961x2940 fac 757-728-7118. Representative Steve Gonzalez@dvs.virginia.gov or April Meisel Eastern Regional Outreach Coordinator at

April.Meisel@dvs.virginia.gov. Hours of Operation walk-ins Monday-Friday 8:30 to 11:30. Appointments 1:00 to 3:00.

Next year there will be **two** new Shipmates able to file disability claims for you in the branch:

Shipmate Venettta Charles and Shipmate Evette McDaniels.

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 January 9th 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 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

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.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER.

The Branch was able to bless two Veteran, two Marine, and two

Sailor families in need with \$500 each to assist them during the Christmas Season.

The Branch participated in the Toys for Tots campaign and collected more than two full campaign box of new toys. A big thank you to all the members for making this a very successful endeavor.

#### **Coming Events:**

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

02 Feb- Groundhog Day 13 Feb- Branch Meeting at Branch 7PM 13 Feb- Auxiliary Meeting at Branch 7PM

14 Feb- Valentines Day18 Feb- Presidents Day

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

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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**Tel**: 757-499-6650 and 499-1155. **Internet:** www.fra99.org Monthly meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of the month

#### News from the LAFRA Unit 99



#### **President LAFRA-Unit 99**

We had a very successful year in 2018 and look forward to an even better year in 2019. We continue to grow in Membership

Hope to see you next month, which will be 9 January.

## **Joyce Meeker**

#### **News of Interest to Veterans**

Secretary of Defense Resigns: Secretary of Defense: James Mattis announced that he will be stepping down from his position at the end of February. His resignation comes in the wake of an announcement by the administration to completely withdraw U.S. forces from Syria, and to reduce troop numbers in Afghanistan by approximately half. "Secretary Mattis, has ensured America's military remains the best, that our intelligence resources remain clear-eyed, and that our elected officials hear the unvarnished truth," "In his short, two-year hitch at the Pentagon, he's restored military readiness, built a more lethal force, changed the department's business practices to get more bang for the buck, strengthened overseas alliances, and took care of our troops and

their families. This great American made things happen..

**Utah Senator Stops Blue Water** Navy Bill: An objection by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) to passing H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, by unanimous consent on the Senate floor Wednesday has effectively doomed any chance of the bill being passed in the 115th Congress. Lee now joins Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), who objected last week due to the bill's overall cost. Lee's objection was because he wants to wait and see more sufficient evidence. "We don't need more sick veterans to prove sufficient evidence," "Agent Orange made Vietnam veterans sick, and science agrees that there isn't any reason to treat so-called Blue Water Navy veterans any different than their peers who served ashore or on the inland waterways of Vietnam," he said. "What both senators have done is fail thousands of veterans many of whom reside in their home states. Their obstruction to this bill's passage forsakes our nation's promise to take care of those who were injured or made ill due to their military service. Their objections put cost above faithful and honorable service. FRA is again calling on all members and advocates to demand that the Senate pass H.R. **299** before the end of the year.

Blue Water Navy Bill Press Conference: The FRA showed up in force to a Blue Water Navy Bill press conference in the Cannon House Office Building yesterday. House VA Committee Chairman Dr. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) and incoming Chairman Mark Takano (D-Calif.) hosted the bipartisan event to urge the Senate to pass H.R. 299, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2018, which the House passed unanimously 382-0 back in June, has been held up twice in the Senate over the past two weeks by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-

Wyo.) and Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), who either objected to the bill's cost or wanted to wait for more sufficient evidence. "If America can't afford to take care of her veterans, then America should quit creating us.".

End of 115th Congress Legislative Roundup: While the Senate failed to pass the FRAsupported Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. Congress was able to send several FRAsupported bills to the president before it concluded the 115th Congress. This includes S. 2248, a miniature omnibus package, which improves programs for homelessness veterans, transition assistance, veteran-owned small businesses, student veterans, and also includes the SIT-REP Act, which would protect student veterans from penalties due to delayed GI Bill payments. Congress also passed the FRAsupported S. 3777, Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018, which will require VA to set up a team to plan and schedule dates for when student veterans who were impacted by GI Bill payment problems will receive their corrected housing payments. The FRA is also glad Congress passed **S. 3661**, which requires **DOD** to conduct a program to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of WWII and support programs sponsored by veterans organizations and local governments, and S. 2679, Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act. which enables veteran-owned small businesses to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Donation Program.

All bills that were not passed this year must be re-introduced in the 116th Congress. The FRA applauds efforts of the 115th Congress to improve the quality of life of veterans, service members, and their families and survivors. More than two dozen FRA-supported bills have been

enacted into law over the past two years, or are awaiting the president's signature. Among them are: the Forever GI Bill, which removes the 15-year useor-lose window for veterans discharged after January 2013, grants full eligibility to all Purple Heart recipients, adds additional months of eligibility for veterans pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Degrees, and restores benefits to veterans whose schools abruptly closed. The VA MISSION Act expands caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans, consolidates access to private sector doctors into one simplified and improved program. The VA MISSION Act also improves the VA's ability to hire and retain high quality health care professionals, and established a process to evaluate and improve VA facilities across the country. The VA Accountability and Whistle-blower Protection Act improves accountability at the VA and protects the rights of whistleblowers.

Secretary of VA Testifies on State of VA: On Wednesday, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie testified before a join hearing of the Senate and House Commit-tees on Veterans' Affairs. The FRA thanks Secretary Wilkie for reaffirming that VA will make whole all veterans who were impacted by issues with the implementation of the Forever GI Bill. He also discussed how VA health care has improved in recent years and responded to recent stories regarding Veterans Choice Program spending, mishandling of the caregiver program, and suicide prevention. The hearing focused on implementation of the landmark and FRA-supported VA MISSION Act of 2018. Members of the committees and the FRA's written statement expressed concerns with VA's lack of transparency, which can impede its ability to ensure

veterans have timely access to the high-quality care they have earned.

Temporary Moratorium on Discharges Issued for the Caregiver Program: In response to the high number of veterans being wrongfully discharged from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, known as the Caregiver Program, VA has announced it will temporarily halt discharges and decreases in level for current enrollees. Veterans are still able to apply and those wishing to leave the program may continue to do so.

Survey Shows Increased Trust from Veterans in VA Hospitals: Between fall 2017 and September 2018, VA surveyed more than 1.6 million veterans regarding their trust of VA health care. Eighty-six percent of veterans indicated they trust VA, which is a 2.4 percent increase. Veterans expressed a concerns with access to specialty care, lack of parking and long wait times to receive medications. Learn more about the.

**DPAA Year in Review:** This past week, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) released its annual report which provides an overview of the past year's accomplishments and missions. In FY18, the agency accounted for 203 formerly missing service members, which is the highest yearly total reached to date, and made substantial progress in identifying remains who were previously accounted for as a part of group burials. Broken down by conflict, 10 were accounted for from the Vietnam War, 37 from the Korean War, and 156 from World War II.

#### **MIA Update:**

This week, the **DOD POW/MIA**Accounting Agency announced
36 new identifications, including
20 from the USS Oklahoma.

Returning home with full military honors are:

Air Force Col. Richard A. Kibbey, was a member of Detachment 5, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. On Feb. 6, 1967, he, along with three others, were aboard a HH-3E helicopter on a rescue and recovery mission over North Vietnam. After rescuing the pilot of a downed aircraft, Kibbey's helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire resulting in an internal explosion and crash. Kibbey was subsequently reported missing in action. Interment services are pending.

Army Sgt. 1st Class James L. Boyce was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People's Army south of Chonui, South Korea. Boyce could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action on July 11, 1950. Interment services are pending.

Army Cpl. Frederick E. Coons was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. On July 29, 1950, Coons was declared missing action in the vicinity of Geochang, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea, when he couldn't be accounted for after a unit withdrawal action to set up a roadblock against North Korean Forces. Interment services are pending.

Army Pfc. William H. Jones was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, engaged in attacks against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces near Pakchon, North Korea. On Nov. 26, 1950, after his unit made a fighting

withdrawal, he could not be accounted for and was reported missing in action. Interment services are pending.

Army Pfc. George L. Spangenberg was a member of Company E, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, following a battle in Unsan, North Korea. Spangenberg's name was never included on lists of American soldiers being held as prisoners of war by the Korean People's Army or the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces and no returned American prisoners of war had any information on his status. Based on a lack of information regarding his status, he was declared deceased on Dec. 21. 1953. Interment services are pending.

Army Pfc. James P. Shaw was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, when enemy forces invaded the regiment's positions and forced them to withdraw in North Korea. During the withdrawal, U.S. forces were under constant heavy enemy pressure and were hampered by icy roads and heavy equipment. Shaw was reported missing following an engagement which lasted through the night on Dec. 3, 1950. On June 23, 1951. he was declared deceased. Interment services are pending.

Army Air Forces Sgt. Vernon L. Hamilton a member of the 642nd Bombardment Squadron, 409th Bombardment Group, 9th Bombardment Division, 9th Air Force. On March 23, 1945, he was aboard an A-26B, when the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and went missing during a combat mission from Couvron, France to Dülmen, Germany. Hamilton, his pilot, 2nd Lt. Lynn W. Hadfield, and the other

crewman, Sgt. John Kalausich, had been participating in the interdiction campaign to obstruct German troop movements in preparation for the Allied crossing of the Rhine River. Interment services are pending.

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Lynn W. Hadfield a member of the 642nd Bombardment Squadron, 409th Bombardment Group, 9th Bombardment Division, 9th Air Force. On March 23, 1945, he was aboard an A-26B, when the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and went missing during a combat mission from Couvron, France to Dülmen. Germany. Hadfield, and his two crewmen, Sgt. Vernon Hamilton and Sgt. John Kalausich, had been participating in the interdiction campaign to obstruct German troop movements in preparation for the Allied crossing of the Rhine River. Interment services are pending.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Hulen** A. Leinweber was a member of 40th Fighter Squadron, 35th Fighter Group. On June 10, 1945, the P-51 aircraft he was piloting was reportedly struck by anti-aircraft fire, causing the right wing to break off. Leinweber's aircraft crashed just south of Ilap village, in Infugao Province, Republic of the Philippines. The American Graves Registration Service searched the area south of Ilap village, locating wreckage but recovering no remains. In October 1947, Leinweber's remains were declared nonrecoverable. Interment services are pending.

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. James R. Lord a member of the 66th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group, 12th Tactical Air Command, 12th Air Force. On Aug. 10, 1944, the P-47D aircraft he was piloting crashed due to a navigational error a mile off the

coast of Anghione, Corsica. No witnesses reported seeing any parachute sightings. Interment services are pending.

Army Pvt. William A. Boegli was a member of Company L, 332nd Infantry Regiment, 81st Infantry Division, invading Angaur Island in the Palau Island chain. After Boegli's regiment successfully captured Red Beach on the northeastern shore, they pushed westward across the island. On Sept. 30, 1944, Boegli was killed while attempting to lead a group of litter bearers to evacuate wounded servicemen. His remains were not recovered following the war. Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Nicholas J. Gojmerac was a member of Company Q, 4th Raider Battalion, 1st Marine Raider Regiment, when his unit assaulted a Japanese stronghold at Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia Island, Solomon Islands. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1943, after he was last seen crawling through heavy fire to provide medical care to an injured Marine while he was mortally wounded himself. Interment services are pending.

Navy Reserve Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class William H. Blancheri was a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd 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. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than **2.000** were wounded. Blancheri died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943. Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Pfc. Michael L. Salerno was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd 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. Salerno died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, **1943.** Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Fred E. Freet was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines. 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. Freet died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943. Interment services are pending.

USS Oklahoma: The following personnel were 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:

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Wilbur C. Barrett. Interment services are pending.

Navy Storekeeper 2nd Class Gerald L. Clayton. Interment services are pending. Navy Storekeeper 1st Class John W. Craig. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 3rd Class Warren H. Crim. Interment services are pending.

Navy Musician 2nd Class Francis E. Dick. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class George T. George. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Charles C. Gomez. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Claude O. Gowey. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Daniel L. Guisinger. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Robert W. Headington. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Challis R. James. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Wesley V. Jordan Interment services are pending.

Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard V. Keffer. Interment services are pending.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Joe M. Kelley. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Elmer D. Nail. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Frank E. Nicoles. Interment services are pending.

Navy Storekeeper 3rd Class Eli Olsen. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman 1st Class Millard C. Pace. Interment services are pending.

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Merle A. Smith. Interment services are pending.

Navy Reserve Fireman 1st Class Lewis F. Tindall. Interment services are pending.