

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:
Veterans Day is approaching, a day that's particularly important

to me and the FRA and should be to ALL Americans. This day is dedicated to the memory of all those who served our Country. There will be celebrations nationwide including a Veterans Day Parade in Virginia Beach, I encourage you all to attend this event, arrangements are being made to accommodate Members who are unable to march in the Parade. Check with any of your Officers to find out how.

Gabriel Falu

From the Vice President



We are in the planning stages for our Thanksgiving Day Function and our Annual Christmas Party These have been huge successes

in the past and I'm sure that you won't be disappointed. Please plan on attending and invite a Shipmate who might not be able to attend.

Don't forget to Vote on Election Day, too many of us don't participate in the State and Local Elections, these are important too I encourage you all to get involved with your Branch we need your help!

SKI



Chaplains Corner

Shipmates:

This is the time of year referred to commonly as the Holiday Season, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Years. All of these are important and we need to take time to assess our lives. What are we doing and what can we do to make things better in our Country.

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:

Any Walgreens Pharmacy will provide Free Flu Shots for all **Tricare & VA** enrolled veterans. We are all getting older so take care of yourself.

Any Shipmate who served Bluewater off the coast of Vietnam during the war should apply now for **VA** Benefits. If you have the following Chronic B-cell Leukemia; Hodgkin's Disease; Multiple Myeloma; Non-Hodgins' Lymphoma; Prostrate Cancer; Respiratory Cancers; Soft Tissue Sarcomas; AL Amyloidosis; Chloracne; Diabetes Mellitus Type; Ischemic Heart Disease; Parkinson's Disease; Early onset Peripheral Neuropathy; Porphyria Cutanea Tarda.

In Closing if you received Emergency room care and were denied payment by the **VA** Affairs please refile. Quote **US** court of appeals case Wolf vs Wilke for further info.

November is Veterans appreciation month.

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 **November 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 SKI reported there were **0** newly joined, for a total of **582** active members.

- 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 when you become aware of any 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 and S/M MAA, in Honor of all those 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.

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. 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:**

03 Nov- Day Light Saving time ends

05 Nov- Election Day

11 Nov- Veterans Day

13 Nov- Branch meeting at Branch at 7PM

13 Nov- Auxiliary meeting at Branch at 7PM

28 Nov- Thanksgiving Day

07 Dec- Pearl Harbor Day

11 Dec- Christmas Party

11 Dec- Branch meeting at Branch at 7PM

11 Dec- Auxiliary meeting at Branch t 7PM

23 Dec-Hanukkah

25 Dec- Christmas Day

01 Jan- New Years Day

08 Jan- Branch meeting at Branch at 7PM

08 Jan- Auxiliary meeting at Branch at 7PM

20 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 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

We are proud to announce the Auxiliary Unit 99 is excelling in community events. We gave out school supplies such as books, pencils, and school required shirts. So far we delivered 6 food baskets and assisted in a youth festival. We attended Nationals and received 1st place nomination for Membership Award for the unit that recruited the most new and reinstated

members for the year. We ended with a **17.9% increase** in membership. Congratulations ladies job well done. We would like to extend an invitation to our Second Annual Thanksgiving community dinner. Join our Unit in giving back on **November 28, 2019, Thanksgiving Day**, starting at **2 PM**. Last year was fantastic we fed and gave blankets along with gift bags to **63 Veterans**. We look forward to seeing you there and your support and donations are welcomed.

Hope to see you at our next meeting which will be **13 November**.

Joyce Meeber

SHIPMATES' REPORT

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

From the Editor:



This section is reserved for our Biographies of Shipmates, I don't have any input at this time but if you would like to be included or you would like to nominate someone, please submit your information or request an interview where I can gather the necessary information to write the article, please contact me at telephone 757-376-8698 or email at

mlt_quinn@verizon.net

News of Interest to Veterans VSOs Testify at Blue Water Navy Oversight Hearing: VSOs testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding VA's preparation to process Blue Water Navy Agent Orange claims starting on Jan. 1, 2020. Subcommittee members discussed the importance of providing timely benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans and reducing the complexity of the disability claims process. At the hearing, "Secretary Wilkie must lift the stay immediately. Waiting until January not only harms veterans but creates an unnecessary backlog for VA at a time we can ill afford it."

Meeting with Secretary of Defense: VSOs representatives attended a meeting with Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T.

Esper and other veteran community stakeholders. Their discussion touched on key issues facing the military community such as suicide, toxic exposure, military housing, and other quality of life issues. "The **FRA** thanks the Secretary for his commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our service members and their families".

House Markup Hearing Ends Abruptly: This week, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs held a hearing to mark up and amend certain veteran bills that essentially ended after a dispute over procedures. House Republicans and Democrats on the committee disagreed over the addition of amendments to a significant women veterans piece of legislation. "It was disappointing to see what happened during today's hearing". "We hope all members of the committee can put today's hearing in the past and get back to being one of the more productive Bipartisan Committees in all of Congress." While the hearing this week did not end as planned, the **FRA** is confident the House committee will continue to move essential legislation just as they have historically done before.

Hackers Target Job-Hunting Service Members and Veterans: Service members and veterans seeking employment need to be aware of a scam circulating the web. The website, "**Hire Military Heroes,**" prompts users to download an app that contains malicious malware that allows hackers to access a significant amount of personal information, according to cybersecurity researchers at Cisco Talos. The **phony site** shared a similar **URL** to the site "**Hiring Our Heroes,**" an

employment site the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation launched. It is unknown at this time who may be the culprit behind the cyberattack.

American Troops Continue to Be Identified: It was reported this week that at least **41** American troops have been identified among the remains returned from North Korea last year, according to officials at the Defense **POW/MIA** Accounting Agency (**DPAA**), paving the way for them to be returned to their families nearly seven decades after the Korean War. North Korea turned over **55** cases of bones and artifacts to the United States in July 2018, weeks after its leader, Kim Jong Un, agreed to do so as a goodwill gesture during his first nuclear summit with President Donald Trump. In advance of the June 12, 2018, Singapore Summit, **VSOs** sent a letter to President Trump to urge him to include the return of American remains as a discussion point with Kim Jong Un.

Gold Star Family Members Now Have Opportunity to be a Congressional Fellow: This week, House Resolution **107** – **SFC** Sean Cooley and **SPC** Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act was agreed to in the House. This resolution establishes the Congressional Gold Star Fellowship in which an eligible individual may serve a **12-month** fellowship in the office of a member of the House. An eligible individual is defined as the child, spouse, or sibling of a person who dies while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, to include National Guard & Reserve, that has been ruled “in the line of duty” and a veteran who dies from a service-

connected disability, per **VA**, within **four** years of their discharge from the Armed Forces.

Veterans Day Discounts and Freebies: As a display of gratitude and appreciation, community partners around the nation have joined together on **Veterans Day** to honor servicemen and women, veterans, and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to this nation. Take advantage of the numerous discounts and freebies, ranging from discounted and free meals to discounts at local retail stores, in your area on **Veterans Day**.

MIA Update: The Defense **POW/MIA** Accounting Agency announced four new identifications, and three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from **WWII** and the **Korean War**. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Marine Corps Pfc. Robert J. Hatch, 21, of Woods Cross, Utah, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th 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, including Hatch on the third day of battle, **Nov. 22, 1943**. Hatch will be buried Dec. 14, 2019, in Bountiful, Utah.

Army Pfc. Jasper V. Marquez, 21, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in

action on **Nov. 28, 1950**, when enemy forces attacked his unit near the **Kunu-ri, North Korea**. Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Marquez had died at **Hofong Camp** while a prisoner of war, in **January 1951**. Marquez will be buried in his hometown. The date has yet to be determined.

Army Sgt. William C. Holmes, 21, of Smyth County, Virginia, was killed during the Korean War. Holmes was a member of Heavy Tank Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. On **Sept. 21, 1951**, his unit participated in a patrol located near the **Iron Triangle**, North Korea. After a prolonged firefight, Holmes was killed in action. Following the battle, his remains were not initially recovered. Holmes will be buried Nov. 23, 2019, in Middleway, West Virginia.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Everett G. Windle, 20, of Kansas City, Missouri, was killed during World War II. On **Dec. 7, 1941**, Windle was assigned to the battleship **USS Oklahoma**, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The **USS Oklahoma** sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Windle. Interment services are pending.

Navy Coxswain Layton T. Banks, 20, of Dallas, Texas, was killed during World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, Banks was assigned to the battleship **USS Oklahoma**, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The **USS Oklahoma** sustained multiple

torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of **429** crewmen, including Banks. Interment services are pending.

Navy Fireman First Class Bethel E. Walters, 25, of Dallas, Texas, was killed during World War II. On **Dec. 7, 1941**, Banks 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 **USS West Virginia** sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures taken by the crew prevented it from capsizing, and it came to rest on the shallow harbor floor. The attack resulted in the deaths of **106** crewmen, including Walters. Interment services are pending.

Marine Corps Sgt. Jerome B. Morris, 22, of Paragould, Arkansas, was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 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, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Morris was killed on the third day of the battle, **Nov. 22, 1943**. Interment services are pending.

Oppose "Skinny" NDAA

The Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman James Inhofe (Okla.) has introduced a "Skinny" National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). He did this "to ensure that critical defense programs are authorized, including: pay for our service

members and Department of Defense civilians; quality-of-life programs for military families; support for U.S. troops and partners conducting operations overseas; oversight of military construction and acquisition programs; and critical readiness efforts." However, this "Skinny" NDAA leaves out critical provisions for troops, retirees and widows. The FRA believes the House and Senate should pass a full NDAA, which has been done every year for the past **58** years.

The House and Senate should pass a full NDAA that includes: ending the **Widows Tax**; delaying the elimination of nearly **18,000** medical billets; allowing service members to sue the **DoD** for instances of medical malpractice unrelated to combat; and requiring the Pentagon to implement military housing reform. Members are urged to use the [FRA Action Center](#) to ask their legislators to oppose the "Skinny" NDAA and pass the full NDAA with the provisions listed above.

The VA is Approving More Appeals

The Board of Veterans Appeals is adjudicating more disability claims appeals. The Board processed **11** percent more claims (more than **95,000**) and held **38** percent more hearings in **FY2019** when compared to **FY2018**. The improvement at the **BVA** is due to more staff and to a new appeals structure that was mandated by Congress and supported by the **FRA**. The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (H.R. 2288-Public Law 115-55) sponsored by Reps. Mike Bost (Ill.) was enacted into law on August 23, 2017. The law created three "lanes" for veterans' appeals including: The Local Higher Level Review Lane where an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor; The

New Evidence Lane where the veteran may submit new evidence for review and have a hearing and, The Board Lane where jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The Act would allow some veterans, who were already going through the appeals process, to opt into the new system.

Bill Allows DOJ to Help State and Local Veteran Treatment Courts

The House passed the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act (H.R.886), sponsored by Reps. Charlie Crist (Fla.) and Elise Stefanik (N.Y.). The Act creates a new office in the Department of Justice that is responsible for providing grants and assistance to strengthen and expand state and local veteran treatment court programs across the country. The legislation, which passed the House by voice vote, will support the unique needs of veterans who find themselves in the criminal justice system. The veteran's treatment court program offers life-saving and life-changing second chances to non-violent veterans caught in the criminal justice system. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

WW II Coast Guard POW Comes Home

LT. Thomas James Eugene "Jimmy" Crotty was the **only** member of the **U.S. Coast Guard** to become a **POW** of Japan. His remains were recently identified, after being exhumed from a common grave in the American Cemetery and Memorial in **Manila** in the **Philippines**.

He will be buried with full military honors next to his parents in Holy Cross Cemetery

in Lackawanna, Erie County, New York.

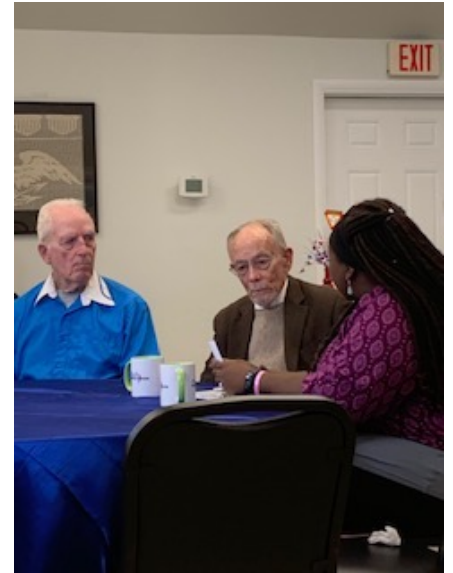
The **Commandant of the Coast Guard** Admiral Karl L. Schultz, is expected to attend.

The family will also receive **LT Crotty's Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Medal of Honor** during the ceremony. It symbolizes Congressional recognition of the enduring bond between the American and Filipino forces who defended the Philippines against Imperial Japan's invasion.

available at this time and will be published later.



FRA Information Table



Michael Quinn are interviewed by Ms Pettenger.



LAFRA Unit 99 Hosted an Interview by a local television station to discuss what the **FRA** is and what it does. Interview included **National Officers, East Coast Regional Officers, FRA Branch 99 Officers** and Members of **Branch 99** as well as Members of **LAFRA Unit 99**.Photos were not

LAFRA Information Table



Smiley is interviewed by Ms Miracle Pettenger of the NowNetwork.