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FRA *today*

18 The New GI Bill

Paying for college just got easier for thousands of American service members and veterans.



24 MCPOCG Bowen on the benefits of the new GI Bill



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Featured

18 THE NEW GI BILL

Post-9/11 Service members win big — including increased tuition, expanded enrollment options and transferability to family members. Implementation will be a challenge.



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LOYALTY, PROTECTION AND SERVICE

FRA IS A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR CURRENT AND FORMER ENLISTED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD ON CAPITOL HILL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FRA.ORG OR CALL 800-FRA-1924.

ON THE COVER

Need money for college? Want to transfer your MGIB benefits to your family? Read about the expanded benefit and how it will affect you and yours.



Eileen Murphy

Association Education

SEVERAL SHIPMATES SENT LETTERS and e-mails this month commenting on the response they get when they go to events to talk about FRA. "What's FRA?" is a common question.

Please don't feel frustrated; look at it as an opportunity to educate. Every current and former member of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard is benefiting today from FRA-led initiatives. Mouthful? Yes. But it is also very true.

Here are some recent examples of FRA legislative advocacy:

- Eliminating of the Social Security offset for older Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) beneficiaries;
- Expanding eligibility for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability benefits;
- Halting proposed retiree TRICARE fee increases since 2006;
- Advancing legislation authorizing a larger-than-proposed increase in active duty pay;
- Increasing Montgomery GI Bill benefits for all who have served since 9/11.

There is not a law on the books that protects your pay and benefits. It requires vigilance, dedication, perseverance (see *NED Perspective* on page 5) to maintain the level that exists today, let alone make advancements. A recent private sector example underscores this point, particularly for retirees. General Motors announced in July that they are ending health care benefits for more than 97,000 retirees as a cost-savings measure. One reporter covering this story commented that there is not an organization that fought for those beneficiaries, so the cut was made without a fight.

It is a team effort. There is strength in numbers. These aren't just pithy phrases — they are valid reasons to belong to FRA. One shipmate recently said he didn't need to renew his membership because the legislation he was wanting had passed. He was not thinking of helping his fellow shipmates who need support on bills that affect them. He was not thinking of what fee increases will be proposed next year. He was thinking simply of \$25. It's an investment — and a small one at that.

As we create our marketing campaigns for the fall and coming year, I would appreciate feedback as to why you belong to FRA. If you have Internet access, please visit www.fra.org/whybelong and take a short survey. If you don't have Internet access, please fill out the form below and send it to: Eileen Murphy, FRA Headquarters, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria VA 22314. (Number in order of importance)

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Eileen Murphy is the Director of Marketing and Communications and serves as the Managing Editor of *FRA Today*. Please contact her at eileen@fra.org.

FRA today

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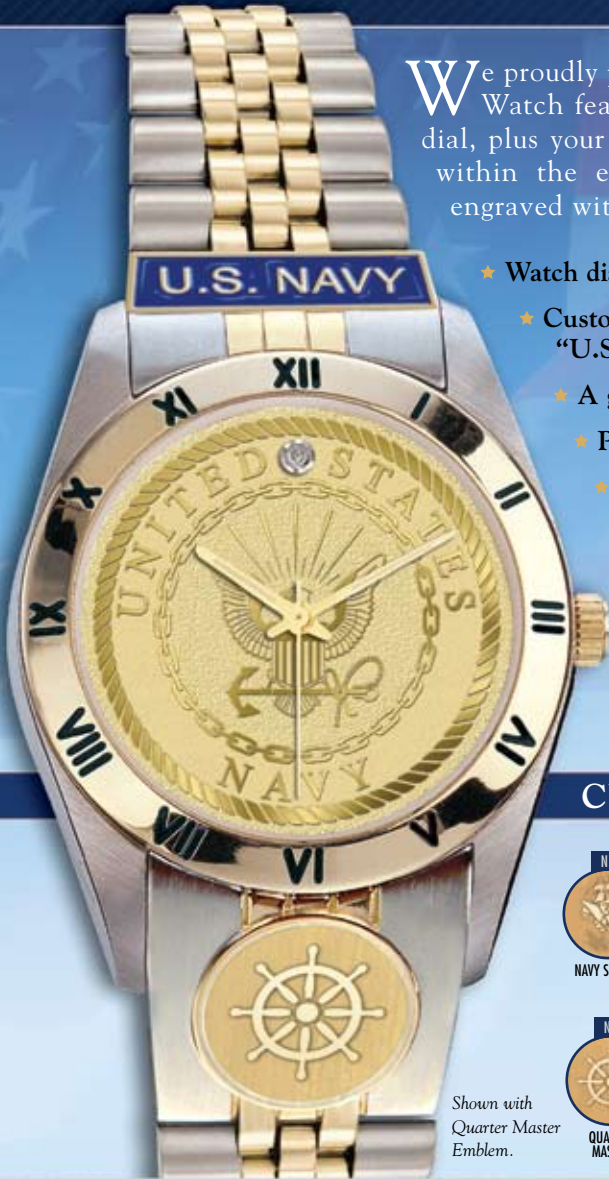
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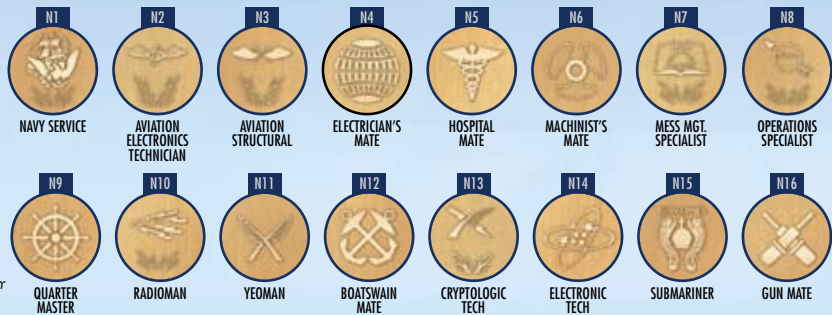
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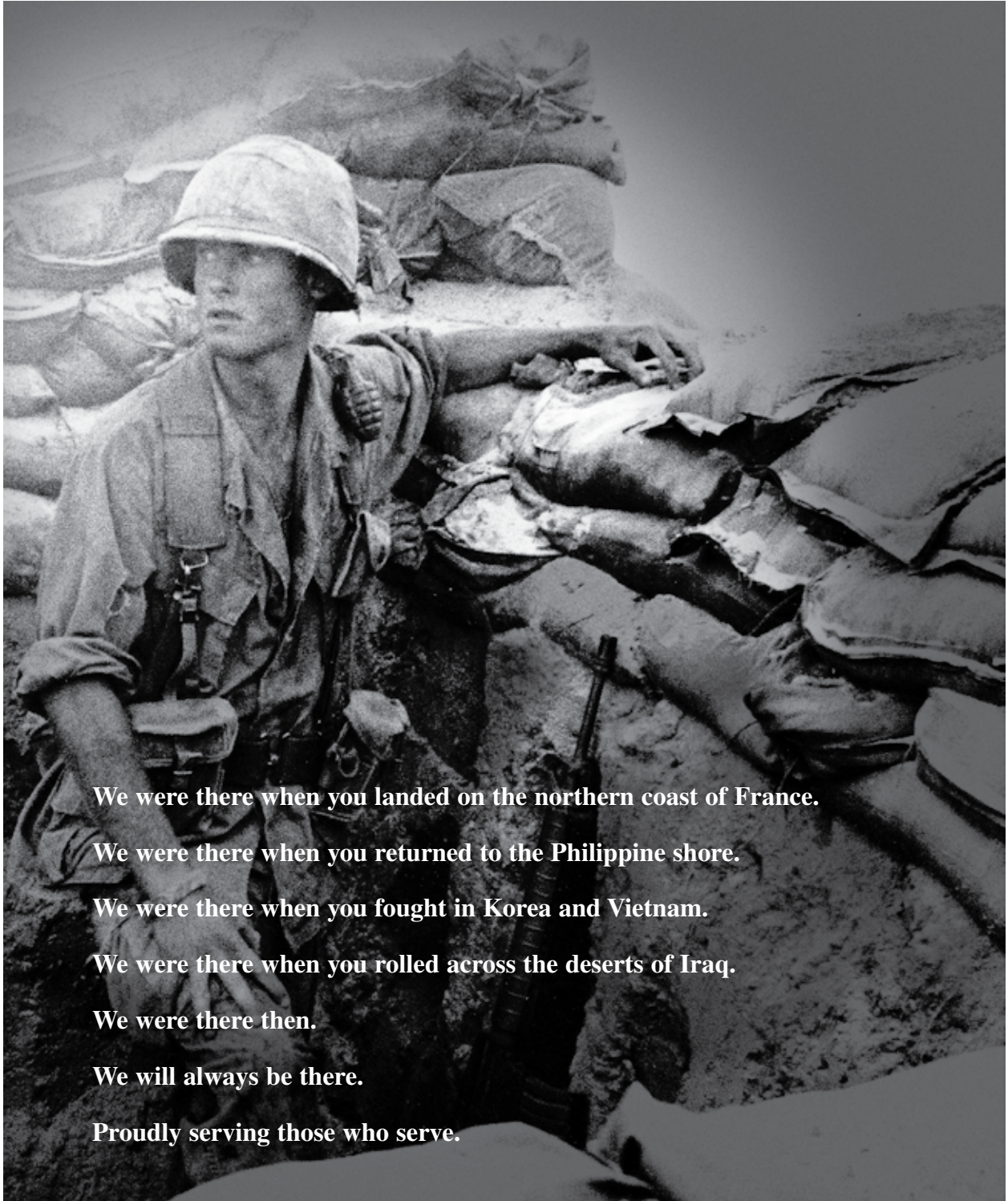
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Joe Barnes

Partnering and Perseverance on MGIB Reform

THE RECENTLY ENACTED FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental spending bill includes significant and long overdue enhancements to education benefits. Reform of the MGIB program along with an opportunity for Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP) era personnel to sign up for education benefits have been long standing priorities for FRA.

MGIB reform was one of two issues addressed by the National Board of Directors and Regional Vice Presidents during their Hill visits to their respective U.S. Senators and Representatives in April. (The other issue was adequate health care funding.)

The passage of the legislation is a major victory that will benefit everyone who's been on active duty since 09/11/01 and is the result of FRA's collaborative efforts with other military and veterans organizations within The Military Coalition (TMC) and key education associations in the Partnership for Veterans Education.

The TMC is now comprised of 35 organizations collectively representing over five million members, and the Partnership (which dates from 1999) is comprised of both national higher-education associations and military and veterans service organizations that support enhanced education benefits for military veterans.

Senator Jim Webb, who led the reform effort, plus Senators John Warner, Daniel Akaka and Chuck Hagel spoke of the unusual and nearly unanimous support among the major military and veterans organizations for the MGIB reform package at a celebratory reception hosted by the VFW and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) following the enactment of the landmark legislation.

And, Charles Rowe, President of the National Association of State Approving Agencies, wrote to all Partnership organizations following passage of the bill, stating in part, "I would like to extend our sincere thank you to you and members of your organization for the many efforts and hard work that went into the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. As a founding member of the Partnership for Veterans Education in 1999, it is very rewarding to look back over the last nine years and see just how far we have come."

Continuing grassroots support from our membership...continues to pay off in the health care, compensation and benefits arena.

He continues, "In 1999, the MGIB, Chapter 30 rate was \$536 a month for full time institutional enrollment. Many veterans had to work full time to go to school. Great strides were made over the course of the next few years with the hard work of the Partnership that resulted in the rate increasing to \$985 in October of 2003. As we all know too well, September 11, 2001, created new circumstances that drew the attention of the Partnership to equity for members of the Selected Reserve and the need for a Total Force GI Bill.

Little did we know at the outset of the 110th Congress the magnitude of the improvements that would occur. These are monumental changes — unlike any that we have seen since the enactment of

the MGIB as a test program in 1984!"

Significant challenges to implementing the legislation exist and standing up the new program within the Department of Veterans Affairs by the August 2009 deadline. This is an ambitious undertaking given all that comes with establishing a new government bureaucracy. There are also yet-to-be-answered questions related to the interpretation of bill language by legal experts within DoD and DVA — including when the six-year clock starts with regard to the transferability aspects of the new program — which apparently will be determined by DoD. And there are remaining issues not addressed in the legislation — including adequately funding the Reserve MGIB program which is administered by DoD.

All of this is part of the process — along with the perseverance that's been required over a number of years to advance this reform package. That said, there's more to be done with regard to tracking implementation of the new benefits and monitoring same when this is completed along with ensuring sustained and adequate funding to support the program going forward. There is strength in numbers and along with strong and continuing grassroots support from our membership — our partnering with dozens of our sister organization continues to pay off in the health care, compensation and benefits arena. And thanks to all who've weighed in — and continue to do so — on this and other important legislative proposals.

Joe Barnes is FRA's National Executive Director and Chairman of the National Committee on Legislative Service. A member of Navy Department Branch 181, he is also an advisor to the National Committees on Budget and Finance and Membership and Retention.

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What happens at 65?

I am about to turn 65. What will happen to my medical and other benefits? Are Medicare and Tricare For Life the same and which benefits come with each? Can I still get my prescriptions filled at the military pharmacy I now use or will I have to go on Medicare part D? Will I be able to use Express Scripts for my prescriptions? I have many more questions and would appreciate it if you could cover many of the different things that occur when a retiree reaches 65.

Carl Findley Jr., USN (Ret.)

From FRA: You will receive a letter from Medicare about three months from your 65th birthday, with an option to enroll in Medicare Part B or decline. If you decline Medicare Part B, you will not be eligible for TRICARE For Life (TFL). Upon enrolling in Medicare Part B, you will transition from TRICARE to TFL, it's a seamless process.

You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part D to keep your TRICARE pharmacy plan. Some people choose to purchase Medicare Part D because they have limited income and resources.

Prescription drug coverage under TFL is considered creditable (as good as Medicare prescription drug coverage). Remember, to keep your TRICARE Pharmacy drug benefit, you must also be enrolled in Medicare Part B.

If you have any further questions, please contact Bob Washington at bobw@fra.org or 800-FRA-1924 ext. 113.

Guadalcanal

The feature article, *Guadalcanal*, in the July 2008 *FRA Today*, by Lauren Armstrong, is truly outstanding! Contributing to this excellence was Ms Armstrong's thorough research coupled with the eyewitness accounts by Guadalcanal veterans such as Bernie Bonnezeze, Gus Forbus, Bob Traugh and others. This effort is very timely as these warriors are approaching their 90th birthday... the stories must be captured soon. Today I met an 87-year-old former crewmember of the USS Lattimer, APA. He told me of a monster typhoon that pushed the Lattimer backwards during the Okinawa campaign, despite being at flank speed. I've heard similar stories from other sailors on other ships who were off the coast of Okinawa in 1945.

John Nelson Broussard



Guadalcanal was one of the best historical articles I ever read in any veterans' organization periodical. All too often the Coast Guard is forgotten or taken for granted and I never realized what a significant role they played in the Guadalcanal campaign until reading this article. I proudly served with the First Marine Division in Vietnam as a corpsman and consider this as both an honor and a privilege. War is something none of us want but when it happens the First Marine Division stands ready to answer the call as they did in Korea, Vietnam, and today in the War on Terror. The Coast Guard stands ready to serve all of us and when you consider their many missions and limited resources it boggles the mind. Thank you for bringing to light this important piece of history.

Bill Hammett, USN, (Ret.)

Eliminating Medicare Part B premiums

David Chigos (May 2008, *Shipmate Forum*) suggested that the reason Congress has not acted on the U.S. Court of Appeals request that they eliminate Medicare, Part B premiums for retirees that entered the service prior to 1956, was a "government SNAFU." Hogwash, Congress knows exactly what they are doing. Those of us who qualify are dying off so fast that before long, if not already, it won't be an issue. Our numbers are so small that we have no influence. This issue should have the same priority as the recently approved concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees. As I recall every veteran organization was right in the middle of that situation and that's the reason it passed. I urge the FRA to take the lead on this issue and get something passed through Congress.

Paul Haywood, PNCM, USN(Ret.)

From FRA: FRA supports legislation that would eliminate Medicare Part B premiums for military retirees and consistently urges Congress to honor its promises to military retirees who were promised free healthcare for life. Reducing/eliminating the fees associated with retiree healthcare is one of FRA's top priorities and is referenced in congressional testimony, correspondence to members of Congress, and was the key talking point when FRA's National Board of Directors stormed Capitol Hill in April.

FRA has played an instrumental role in blocking recent proposals to establish new healthcare fees and increase existing ones for military retirees, but we fully expect DoD will continue asking beneficiaries to bear the burden of rising healthcare costs. Given the current environment, eliminating the Medicare Part B premiums for military retirees will be extremely challenging.

A pre-written letter of support for H.R. 1223 (which waives Part B premiums for military retirees) is available at the Action Center on FRA's website (www.fra.org).

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President Signs FY 2008 War Funding with Education Improvements



John Davis

MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO SERVED on or after 11 September 2001 will enjoy substantially enhanced education benefits thanks to provisions of the emergency FY 2008 supplemental war funding bill (H.R. 2642) that was signed into law in early July. In addition to \$162 billion for combat-related expenses for the remainder of FY 2008 and for a portion of FY 2009, the measure provides a 20-percent increase to existing Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits (effective 1 August 2008) and creates an entirely new education program that includes many FRA-supported provisions. The new Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act is scheduled to take effect on 1 August 2009 and includes:

- Four years of full-time college after serving 36 months or more on active duty;
- Elimination of the current \$1,200 enrollment fee;
- Payment up to the highest in-state tuition at a state university (paid to school);
- Transfer of benefits to spouse after six years of service and an additional commitment of four more years;
- Expanded transfer of benefits to children at the completion of the additional four-year commitment;
- A monthly housing allowance of \$1,000-\$2,700 per month based on BAH rates;
- \$1,000 annually for books and up to \$1,200 annually for tutoring;
- Proportional eligibility of benefits for Reservists after 90 days of active duty; and
- Access to the benefit for up to 15 years after separation from service.

Many of these provisions were supported in FRA's congressional testimony, our National Board of Directors'

recent Hill visits, and meetings with congressional staff. Senator James Webb (Va.) worked to get many provisions of his sponsored bill "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act" (S.22) included in the funding bill. The final bill also includes longevity-related transferability provisions and eligibility by VEAP-era personnel who've served since 9/11 as outlined in "The Enhancement of Recruitment, Retention, and Readjustment through Education Act" (S. 2938) sponsored by Senators Lindsey Graham (S.C.), John McCain (Ariz.), and Richard Burr (N.C.).

Details of the new program are still emerging at press time and FRA will report on additional aspects as information becomes available. The Association is concerned about the substantial latitude the Department of Defense (DoD) will have when implementing the benefit provisions, particularly those that pertain to transferability and service member eligibility. The FRA Legislative Team is closely monitoring the interpretation of various provisions of the law and the ambitious stand-up requirements for the new program in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

A more detailed explanation of the new GI Bill is available on page 18.

In addition to the education benefits, the bill includes a provision to forgive debts owed to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) for those who have lost their lives in combat. Previous law required the VA to contact the family and seek collection if the service member had any outstanding debts to the department. This provision, advanced by Texas Senator Hutchison and supported by FRA, would forgive all debts (excluding housing and small business loans) that fall into this category.

Appropriations Process Begins, Expect Slow Progress

Subcommittee markups for the FY 2009 appropriations bills have started and the House Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee approved a record \$118.7 billion for the coming fiscal year, which is \$3.4 billion more than the Administration requested. Congress, however, is expected to pass few, if any, of the 12

spending measures before the start of the new fiscal year on 1 October 2008 due to the long August recess and significant disagreements between House and Senate leadership and the White House. As a result, passage of FY 2009 appropriations bills may be delayed until after the November elections and possibly until after the next President takes

the oath of office (20 January 2009). Unless Congress and the Administration can find common ground on spending priorities, a Continuing Resolution (CR) must be enacted to keep the government funded at FY 2008 levels until FY 2009 appropriations bills are signed into law.

TRICARE ISSUES

Medicare/TRICARE Reimbursement-Rate Cuts Repealed

Following House and Senate approval, President Bush vetoed legislation (H.R. 6331) to repeal the 10.6-percent cut in Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement rates for doctors that took effect 1 July 2008 and authorize a 0.5-percent increase for 18 months. Congress promptly overturned the President's veto of "The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act," repealing the cuts and authorizing an even larger increase of 1.1 percent for 18 months.

The Association thanks the shipmates who used the FRA Action Center to send more than 5,700 e-mails to the President and other elected officials urging passage of the legislation. Your grassroots support enhances the FRA Legislative Team's efforts on Capitol Hill.

TRICARE reimbursement rates are tied to those for Medicare, creating an even greater challenge for TRICARE providers because the low reimbursement rates are compounded by additional administrative requirements and fewer patients. As a result, many healthcare providers are refusing to accept new TRICARE patients. Higher reimbursement rates help ensure access for Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries.

TRICARE Notifies Beneficiaries of Pharmacy Cost Savings for Home Delivery



TRICARE beneficiaries can enjoy substantial savings by using the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP). TRICARE is sending letters explaining TMOP and its convenient, safe and cost-saving features to beneficiaries who receive regular maintenance prescriptions at network retail pharmacies. The letters tell beneficiaries how they can switch from retail pharmacies to TMOP and save up to 66 percent on their prescription drug costs. TMOP offers up to a 90-day supply of medication for the same co-payment as a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy. With rising gas prices, there are additional savings to be realized by avoiding a trip to the local pharmacy.

One easy call to the Member Choice Center (MCC) at 877-363-1433 can start home delivery. A customer service representative will explain the program and offer to process a new 90-day prescription from the beneficiary's provider through TMOP. Beneficiaries can also register for TMOP at www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE – without downloading or mailing forms. Once the registration process is complete, beneficiaries may use the MCC service online and request that TMOP obtain prescriptions from their provider. Since launch of the MCC in August 2007, more than 90,000 retail prescriptions have been switched to TMOP.

DoD has stepped-up communications efforts to expand awareness of this and other cost-saving options following strong opposition from FRA and other organizations to drastic fee hikes for military retirees first proposed in 2006.

FRA Joins Presidential Town Hall Consortium

FRA joined the 2008 Fort Hood Presidential Town Hall Consortium, a diverse group of non-profit organizations dedicated to serving active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired military personnel, veterans, and their families and survivors. The Consortium is inviting the presumptive Republican and Democratic presidential candidates to Fort Hood, Texas, for an in-depth discussion of the increasingly complex issues facing America's military and veteran community. The CBS television network has agreed to produce and broadcast the town hall meeting in prime time on August 11.

Stop-Loss Bonus Bill Introduced

Senator Frank Lautenberg (N.J.) introduced "The Stop Loss Compensation Act" (S. 3060) that will provide a \$1,500/month bonus to service members whose enlistments are extended beyond their obligation by stop-loss orders. The measure applies to both Reserve component members who are forced to extend their tours and active duty personnel who are extended beyond their enlistment contract or after their eligibility for retirement. This bill is retroactive to October 2001 to compensate any service member who has been stop-lossed since the start of the War on Terror. Many of the more than 600,000 Reserve component personnel mobilized during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have had their tours extended with stop-loss orders, often creating financial strains. A stop-loss bonus will not only provide monetary assistance, but will send a strong message that military service is valued. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center at www.fra.org to contact their senators to support this legislation.

The recent U.S. Mint release of the new \$1 Presidential Coins, some without the motto "In God We Trust," has numismatists digging into the history of the motto. The results revealed not only the first design attempting to use the motto, but led to the exclusive striking of this "lost" design for the VERY FIRST TIME!

America's "Trust In God"

Unseen for over 140 years! In 1864, America's first attempt to add a religious motto to its coins was rejected. Filed away in the pages of U.S. Mint chief engraver James B. Longacre's sketchpads, the design remained unseen for over 140 years—until now! While studying Longacre's notes stored in the National Numismatics Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, researchers found that the famed designer's first attempt at the motto was actually for a \$20 Gold Double Eagle with the words "Our Trust Is In God." The design was shelved as Congress debated over the inclusion of the motto on U.S. coins. Instead of appearing on a \$20 Gold Double Eagle, the first coin to utilize the motto was Longacre's Two-Cent piece with the motto shortened to "In God We Trust."

Why the shortened motto? Was the motto shortened to accommodate the smaller denomination? We'll never know, but now you can own a pure silver Proof of Longacre's first endeavor to convert U.S. coinage with this magnificent proposed-motto design—struck for the very first time from his actual sketches discovered in the numismatic vault at the Smithsonian Institution! Containing one ounce of .999 pure silver and struck to an ultra-cameo Gem Proof quality, this wonderful design commemorates a piece of American history and belongs in everyone's collection. Now you can secure the world's first and only "Our Trust Is In God" Double Eagle Proof for only \$99 (plus S&H). **CALL TODAY!**

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Defense Authorization Stalled in Senate

The Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, S. 3001) remains stalled. Other urgent matters, including the FY 2008 supplemental war funding bill (see page 8) and Medicare/TRICARE doctor reimbursement cuts (see page 9), took precedence and at press time, left a variety of NDAA amendments for the Senate to consider. Among the numerous floor amendments waiting for consideration are:

- Accelerating the phase-in of concurrent receipt for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) recipients with ratings between 50 and 90 percent from 31 December 2013 to 30 September 2008;
- Declaring that military personnel already pay for their future health care coverage with in-kind sacrifices, and therefore future fee increases should not exceed the annual percentage increase in military retired pay;
- Eliminating the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset experienced by those who receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC);
- Reducing the Reserve retirement age (age 60) by three months for each cumulative 90-days ordered to active duty for active duty service after 11 September 2001; and
- Providing “gray area retirees” and their immediate family members the option of maintaining continual health care coverage within the TRICARE system.

Additional details on these FRA-supported amendments were included in the July 2008 issue of *FRA Today* (page 9). Shipmates are encouraged to use the Action Center on www.fra.org to contact their senators to request support for these proposals.

The House passed its version of the NDAA (H.R. 5658) in late May. Once the Senate passes its version, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. When the conference committee finishes its work, the report (i.e. the final bill) it will be sent to both chambers for final approval and sent to the White House for the President’s signature. A comparison of the two bills is included in the July issue of *FRA Today* (page 13).

FRA, TMC Support Military Voting Reform

FRA’s strong advocacy for reforming the absentee voting process, particularly for military voters serving overseas, gained the attention of the Pew Charitable Trusts, an independent non-profit focused on serving the public interest. The Pew organization recently invited FRA to partner with them to advance the introduction of legislation that will improve military voter participation in federal elections and expedite the military mail processing of overseas ballots. The Military Coalition (TMC) also agreed to work with the Pew Charitable Trusts to advance these objectives.

FRA is endorsing House and Senate legislation (H.R. 5673, S. 3073) directing the Secretary of Defense to provide air transport for the delivery of absentee ballots from military voters stationed overseas. The Association included its absentee-voting recommendations in congressional testimony submitted to the House Armed Services’ Personal Subcommittee and presented before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.



VETERANS' AFFAIRS

House Veterans Committee Hearing on VA Drug Study

FRA is very concerned about media reports that the VA continued to prescribe an experimental drug (Chantix) despite indications that suicides, suicidal thoughts and aggressive and erratic behavior may be associated with its use. House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Robert Filner (Calif.) believes the VA should immediately suspend prescribing the medication to veterans until a comprehensive review of the drug’s safety is conducted.

FRA National President Larry Boudreaux wrote to leaders of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees urging hearings on this situation and advocating programs that will raise awareness of the drug’s potential side effects. The House Veterans Affairs Committee held a public hearing on the matter on 9 July 2008. The focus of the hearing was to ascertain why the VA continues to prescribe suicide-inducing drugs to veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Bills Introduced to Create VA Dental Program

Senator Richard Burr (N.C.) and Representative Steve Buyer (Ind.), ranking members of their respective Veterans Affairs Committees, have introduced similar bills (S. 3178 and H.R. 6277) that would allow the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) to establish a dental program for all veterans, surviving spouses, and certain dependent children who are enrolled in VA’s health care system. The program, which is voluntary and self-supporting through beneficiary premiums, would enable veterans to benefit from VA’s buying power in order to get dental insurance coverage at lower rates. The FRA-supported bills are modeled after the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) in which military retirees have the option of purchasing dental coverage under a private contract managed by the Department of Defense. The bill would not replace any dental services currently provided by VA.

RETIREES

FY 2008 NDAA Provisions Take Effect

CRSC Improvements Implemented

The FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included an FRA-supported provision expanding Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) for Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service. A Chapter 61 retiree is anyone who has been separated from military service for medical reasons. **To receive this benefit, beneficiaries must apply to the military department from which they were separated.** The service branches have begun to implement the benefit and are accepting applications for Chapter 61 CRSC. The benefit will be paid retroactively 1 January 2008.

All military retirees who are eligible to receive CRSC must apply to their own branch of service using DD Form 2860, Claim for Combat-Related Special Compensation. The form is available at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2860.pdf or beneficiaries can request an application from:

Navy and Marine Corps

Secretary of the Navy Council of Review Boards

Attn: Combat-Related Special Compensation Branch
720 Kennon Street SE, Suite 309
Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20374-5023
Toll Free: 1-877-366-2772
Fax: 202-685-6882/6627

Coast Guard

Commander (adm-1-CRSC)
U.S. Coast Guard
Personnel Command
4200 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203-1804
Phone: 1-800-772-8724
Fax: 785-339-3770

All completed applications must be mailed or faxed to the address above; they cannot be submitted electronically.

Concurrent Receipt (CRDP) Update

Payment of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) for military retirees rated who are rated less-than-100-percent Individual Unemployable (IU) was originally scheduled to be phased in gradually through 2013. However, an FRA-supported amendment in the FY 2008 NDAA eliminated the phase-in and made benefits payable on 1 October 2008 and retroactive to January 2005. Officials at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) have indicated the enhancements will take effect on schedule and will be included in 3 November 2008 retired paychecks.

FRA is currently supporting a Senate floor amendment sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.) to the pending FY 2009 Defense Authorization bill. The amendment would eliminate the phase-in for all CRDP recipients. (See page 11.) FRA continues its strong advocacy for the immediate payment of concurrent receipt of full military retired pay and veteran's disability compensation for all disabled retirees.

DoD Establishes New Physical Disability Board

Former service members who were discharged as unfit for military duty with disability ratings of 20 percent or lower can now apply to have those ratings reviewed by a new Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). Pursuant to the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, DoD has established the new panel to review disability ratings of wounded warriors who were found ineligible for retirement. The Air Force has been designated as lead DoD component for operation and management of the PDBR.

Eligible service members may ask to have their case reviewed by the PDBR if they were separated from the Armed Forces after 11 September 2001 and deemed unfit for continued military service as a result of a physical

disability under Chapter 61. Additionally, the member must have received a combined disability rating of 20 percent or lower, and have been found ineligible for retirement. By law, once adopted by the service secretary, a PDBR recommendation is final and removes the service member's option to pursue subsequent review through the respective military department's Board for the Correction of Military Records.

The PDBR may also decide to review an individual's case, but must receive consent from the service member. Generally, individuals will apply for PDBR review through their respective military department, but more specific guidance will be forthcoming. The PDBR can recommend the appropriate service secretary increase a disability rating, uphold the previous finding, or issue a disability rating when the previous board did not assign one. The board, however, cannot recommend a lower rating.

Some Military Retirees May Receive Retroactive Payment

Service members who retired in January or February of this year may receive a retroactive payment based on the FY 2008 NDAA. The legislation was not enacted before 1 January 2008, preventing the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) from computing the final active duty pay rates for members retiring in these months. These personnel had their retired pay computed on a 3 percent active duty increase formula rather than the final 3.5 percent level, retroactive to 1 January.

As a result, DFAS will re-compute the additional 0.5-percent increase on accounts impacted by this legislation. A Retiree Account Statement detailing the increase has been mailed to the effected retiree's address of record and are also available for viewing online at www.mypay.gov. No action is required by the retiree to receive the retroactive payment.

Retirees: The IRS Wants You!

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) launched a campaign to reach seniors and veterans who qualify for the economic stimulus payment that was signed into law last February. IRS statistics indicate that approximately 5.2 million potential recipients have not filed a claim.

A special stimulus category includes recipients of certain benefits from Social Security and VA who are not normally required to file a tax return. However, these individuals must file a tax return before 15 October 2008 to receive their economic stimulus payments. The agency will send potential

recipients a special letter explaining stimulus payment eligibility and how to claim it. The letter will include a sample tax form and an actual tax form that people can complete and mail to the IRS. This will be the second special mailing to reach of those individuals.

All-Volunteer Force is 35 Years Old

Last month the nation marked 35 years of a military made up exclusively of volunteers. Until July 1973, the military operated under an involuntary draft policy to provide manpower to fight the country's wars. Draftees served during both world wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Opposition to the war in Vietnam brought extreme scrutiny of the draft, and Congress eventually approved the establishment of the all-volunteer force.

For the past 35 years, volunteers manned 100 percent of the armed forces during the nation's times of need, including the Cold War as well as conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo. They filled the ranks and fought in the Persian Gulf, Panama and Grenada. Retention flourishes among the services — in both the active duty and Reserve Component — as they continue to operate in Iraq and Afghanistan and conduct humanitarian missions at home and throughout the world.

Experience is evident in today's armed forces' retention statistics. Today nearly one out of every two service



members re-enlists. During the draft, only one-eighth of the force chose to “re-up,” creating a military where less than 20 percent of the force had more than a few years of service. This is even more impressive considering that today's all-volunteer military has been fighting a two-front War on Terror with protracted operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Honor and Remember Flag



Honor and Remember, Inc. is promoting a flag they have designed to fly as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of our national freedoms. They are seeking an act of Congress to make the “Honor and Remember Flag” an official flag of the United States of America, to “recognize ALL individuals from all wars or conflicts involving the United States who died while serving our nation.” Additional goals include providing an Honor and Remember Flag to living parents who have lost a child in military service to the United States.

FRA Branch 5 has worked hard to champion this mission, and encourages FRA shipmates to visit www.honorandremember.org or write to PO BOX 16834, Chesapeake, VA 23328 for more information.

President Signs Military Tax Reform Bill

The President recently signed “The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act” (H. R. 6081 - Public Law No: 110-245) creating tax relief and tax benefits for service members. Key provisions of the FRA-supported measure, sponsored by Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Rep. Charlie Rangel (N.Y.) include:

- Modifying the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) to permit an employer to make certain contributions to a qualified pension plan on behalf of an employee who is killed or become disabled in combat;
- Extending the limitation period for filing tax refund credit claims arising from VA disability determinations;
- Making permanent the expiring Internal Revenue Code provision that permits active duty Reservists to make penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans;
- Allowing recipients of military death benefits to roll over the amounts received, tax-free, to a Roth IRA or an Education Savings Account;
- Permanent ability to include combat pay as earned income for purposes of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The FRA Legislative team is Joe Barnes, National Executive Director, John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs, Bob Washington, Health Care Advisor and Outreach Manager, Chris Slawinski, National Veterans Service Officer and Ed Dockery, Assistant Director of Legislative Programs.

Public Speaking

MY ARTICLE THIS MONTH will reflect on tools for Public Speaking. Many of our members are involved in public speaking whether it be recruiting new members, placing phone calls to previous members, conducting branch meetings, participating in outreach events, visiting schools to promote the Americanism and Patriotism Essay Contest, or representing the FRA at various ceremonies. You may be a great public speaker or you may not like it because you feel uncomfortable speaking before audiences. Either way, here are some tips for public speaking.

Know your material. As I said in previous articles, you have the best knowledge about the FRA because of your membership in the association. If you are a branch member and attend monthly meetings, you receive a wealth of information about our working committees and legislative advocacy. If you check our website at www.fra.org you will find a bundle of information that will be useful in preparing for public speaking.

Depending upon your speaking event, it is recommended that you practice what you are going to say. You can accomplish this by standing in front of a mirror or having someone listen to your speech and give feedback. Even if you are conducting a call campaign for your members, you should have a script to read from. Check our website for a sample script. You can use notes, if necessary, for your speech or you can write some key phrases on cards that you can refer to. If you use notes, make sure your written words are large enough for you to read so your eyes won't squint.

Know your audience. This is important in preparing your speech or talk, especially at outreach events. If you are scheduled to speak at an event presenting FRA, greet some of your

audience members as they arrive. It is easier to speak to a group of friends than to strangers. If you meet a member of the audience that has similar experience associated with military service, maybe you can talk about common interests and incorporate them into your speech.

Relax. You may be a little nervous and apprehensive when the thought of speaking before a group becomes a reality. Begin your presentation or talk, which may make you feel at ease a little. Because you have practiced, as you continue speaking your knowledge of the material will prevail and you will capture the audience's attention. Hopefully, you will become enthusiastic and add some humor to your discussion. When talking to prospective members, take a few minutes to enlighten them about the FRA, to include our purpose and mission. If they are interested in joining, be sure to have a wallet application available to hand out.

Before you speak, take a few moments and close your eyes. Imagine yourself speaking before a group with confidence, voice projection, and enthusiasm. Visualize your audience clapping because you gave a great presentation.

When you deliver your speech to an audience, talk to prospective members at an outreach event or call a previous member, be sure to speak clearly and with confidence. Concentrate on the message you are giving, which should be focused on the benefits of being a member, our accomplishments serving as an advisor on legislative enhancements for our enlisted sea service members, and the camaraderie among our members.

Do it again. Last but not least, gain experience from speaking in public. The more you do it, the better you will become. Experience builds

confidence, which is the key to speaking effectively.

If you need assistance in preparing for a public speaking event, please let me know.



Penny Collins

BRAVO ZULU

Marty Posekany RPNC

A big BZ to RPNC Marty Posekany for exemplifying how to create outreach opportunities.

Shipmate Posekany paid a visit to NRD Ohio to introduce himself to the new CMC and others in the office. This was not a "hard-sell" recruiting meeting, but simply an opportunity to share information folders, give a background of FRA and the work we do for Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard enlisted personnel. This genuine, heartfelt approach was a wonderful introduction and led to RPNC Posekany and RVPNC Melson going back a few months later to meet with the CO and XO and then addressing the Production Meeting of Zone Supervisors from Ohio, West Virginia and an area of Kentucky.

Awareness is an issue of great importance. Start with the conversations that build understanding, awareness and appreciation. When prospective members understand who FRA is and what FRA does, they will want to join. An application thrust in their face is a turn-off, and that opportunity is lost forever.

Thanks, Shipmate Posekany, for modeling great outreach efforts!

Penny Collins is a member of FRA Branch 24 in Annapolis, Md. and can be reached at penny@fra.org.



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Post-9/11 Service Members Win Big with New GI Bill

New legislation offers enhanced education benefits for those who've served since 9/11, providing increased tuition coverage, expanded enrollment options and transferability to family members.

Paying for college just got easier for thousands of American service members and veterans, thanks to recent legislation that dramatically improves education benefits for personnel who've served on active duty since 11 September 2001. The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act will provide an increased monthly benefit that more accurately reflects today's college costs, a \$1,000-per-year stipend for books and supplies, and an additional monthly stipend based on the housing allowance for the school's



geographic location. Additionally, the measure eliminates the enrollment fee and includes the ability for eligible career service members to transfer the education benefit to their spouses and children.

“The transferability component of this legislation is a welcome improvement to the existing military benefit package,” said FRA’s National Executive Director Joe Barnes of the education provisions included as part of a supplemental war spending measure. “Active duty and reserve personnel are very excited about the possibility of transferring their education benefit to their spouses and/or children.”



Among other important provisions, the legislation also opens the benefit to service members who were not previously eligible for education benefit. The new law authorizes those with qualifying service who previously declined enrollment in the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) or the Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP) an opportunity to enroll in the new program with no enrollment fee. “FRA has been out front in securing an additional enrollment opportunity for the thousands of military members who are currently without education benefits,” said Barnes. “Those who did not elect to participate in MGIB or VEAP early in their careers had no access to one of the most valuable benefits of military service – until now. The new Post 9/11 benefit is a significant legislative victory that is very important to our members, particularly now that the benefit is transferable to spouses and children.”

FRA thanks Sen. Jim Webb (Va.) who initially proposed many of the enhancements included in the final legislation and other members of Congress and their staff who worked tirelessly to advance these provisions. These enhancements are also a direct result of strong and unified legislative advocacy efforts by the FRA and other military and veterans associations.

FRA worked closely with members of Congress, The Military Coalition and the Partnership for Veterans Education to advance military education reform. FRA’s legislative efforts included testimony before several House and Senate committees and subcommittees, one-on-one meetings with members of Congress and their staff, as well as generating grassroots support for a variety of provisions that were eventually approved in the final bill. Members of FRA’s National Board of Directors specifically addressed the importance of educational enhancements and the need to offer an additional enrollment opportunity for VEAP-era personnel when they met with their respective members of Congress in April. Additionally, FRA’s recent online survey of nearly 1,000 active duty and Reserve component personnel revealed that transferability of education benefits to family members is extremely important to military personnel. FRA is reviewing the extensive details of the legislation and will closely monitor implementation of the new program, which is slated to begin on 1 August 2009. FRA continues its work to ensure adequate funding for the expanded education benefit.

Provisions of the New Education Benefit

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act, often referred to as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, is the most significant improvement to the military education benefit since the inception of the original GI Bill in 1944. Here are the basic parameters of the new benefit:

The Tuition Benefit is Richer: The total monthly benefit will vary based on educational program and location. Under the Post-9/11 program, tuition payments will cover full tuition and fees up to the cost of the highest in-state tuition for a four-year public university or college in each state, and will increase annually based on rising tuition costs. These payments will go directly to the college or university, rather than to the student. The benefit, payable for



up to 36 months, will also include a \$1,000-per-year stipend for books and supplies for full-time students (payable directly to the student), and an additional monthly stipend based on the housing allowance (BAH) for the school's geographic location. The housing stipend will be equal to the local BAH rate for a married E-5 and will be paid to students living in dormitories or in off-campus quarters. Active duty students will not be eligible for the housing and book/supply stipends. Additionally, the housing stipend is not authorized for students taking online courses or those who are going to school at half-time or less.

The measure also includes a one-time payment of up to \$2,000 to cover the cost of certification or licensing exams, and up to \$100 per month (\$1,200 maximum) for tutoring. The total benefit is worth an average of \$80,000, which is more than double the current maximum benefit under MGIB. VA officials estimate the average monthly benefit will total \$2,100.

In most cases, the new Post-9/11 program will provide a significantly more generous benefit than the current MGIB, however there may be exceptions. MGIB benefits are being increased by 20 percent effective 1 August 2008, raising the full monthly payment from \$1,101 to \$1,321. Students who enjoy lower tuition rates or have tuition waived may be better off to remain under the existing MGIB program. MGIB could also be a better deal for those attending school in areas where housing costs are low. Eligible service members and veterans will be given the option of maintaining their current MGIB eligibility or accepting the new Post-9/11 benefit.

Those who've already started using their MGIB benefits will be able to transfer any remaining benefits to the new program when it goes into effect and receive the higher benefit.

There are some types of education, such as on-the-job and vocational training, that are not covered by the new program. DoD officials will continue to encourage service members to enroll in the MGIB program if they are considering non-traditional education programs in the future.

Benefits Can Be Transferred to Family Members:

The provision generating the biggest buzz among service members is the authorization to transfer their education benefits to spouses and children. Qualifying military personnel who've served six

years and commit to another four years may transfer all or a portion of the entitlement to a spouse. At the end of the 10-year period, the benefit can also be transferred to children. Based on discussions with congressional staff members, the benefit can be divided in full or partially. For example, eligible service members may use a portion of the benefit and then divide the remainder between a spouse and child. Or the entire benefit may be transferred to a spouse or divided among several children.

Transferability will only be available to those on active duty or in drill status as of 1 August 2009, the effective date of the law. As a result, transferability will not be offered to retired or separated service members. Service members who served three years after 11 September 2001 and then retired are eligible for the new benefit for themselves, but are not authorized to transfer the benefit to family members.

FRA will closely monitor the transferability component. The law authorizes the Department of Defense (DoD) to define the standards for transferability, which leaves the door open for longer service commitments or other requirements that may limit eligibility for transferring the benefit. Prior to enactment DoD opposed the transferability option, citing a potentially negative impact on retention. DoD granted the authority for individual services to transfer the MGIB benefit six years ago, but no additional funding was authorized. Since then, only the Army has used the transferability option, and only for service members with critical skills. FRA is encouraging DoD to honor the legislative intent of the transferability provision.



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More Service Members are Eligible: The new benefit takes effect 1 August 2009 and the level of benefit is determined by the total length of service after 11 September 2001. In order to qualify, military personnel must have 90 days cumulative service since 9/11. Those who've served 90 to 180 days after 9/11 are eligible for 40 percent of the new benefit, with the benefit prorated to reflect longer service. (See chart.) To qualify for the full benefit, service members must have at least 36 months of active duty service after 9/11. Those who've separated since then because of a service-connected disability and served a minimum of 30 consecutive days may also qualify for the full benefit.

Consecutive Service After 9/11/2001	Percentage of Benefit
90 Days	40 %
6 Months	50 %
12 Months	60 %
18 Months	70 %
24 Months	80 %
30 Months	90 %
36 Months	100 %

FRA is particularly excited about the inclusion of VEAP-era personnel and others who do not currently have access to MGIB benefits. Qualifying members of the guard and Reserve who are not eligible for the existing MGIB benefit will also be able to take advantage of the new benefit, prorated to reflect their length of service. Additionally, the new legislation includes a 20-percent increase in MGIB-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) benefit for members of the Reserve component who have not been mobilized.

The Enrollment Fee is Gone: To participate in the current MGIB program, active-duty service members must pay \$100 per month for the first 12 months of their military service. New recruits are forced to make an irrevocable decision about their future education plans and many elect not to participate because of the cost. FRA has long advocated a reformed process that allows service members another opportunity to take advantage of available education programs and this bill provides it.

Contrary to media reports, current participants in the MGIB program must continue to make their \$100-per-month payments until the full \$1,200 enrollment fee is paid. According to VA and DoD officials, there is no provision in the new law to eliminate the member contribution, even though there is no enrollment fee for the new Post-9/11 benefit. No cash refunds will be provided, but those who've already paid their \$1,200 will receive an additional \$1,200 payment after they have exhausted their 36 months of benefits.

The Window of Opportunity is Larger: Under the existing MGIB program, service members have 10 years from their date of retirement, separation or discharge to utilize this valuable education benefit.

Only post-9/11 service counts toward the new benefit. For those who served less than three years after 11 September 2001, the above chart outlines the portion of tuition, books and living stipend available for cumulative periods of service.



The new Post-9/11 benefit will be available for 15 years after leaving the service.

Education is a high priority for today's service members. According to FRA's recent online survey of active duty and Reserve personnel, more than 32 percent are currently pursuing a college degree. As a result, education benefits are also important. The senior enlisted advisors for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard all rank education benefits in the top five of military quality-of-life programs.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Charles "Skip" Bowen sums it up this way: "Pay, housing and medical care are consistently ranked at the top of the benefit list. When we get down to it, food, shelter and healthcare needs will always come first. But education comes right after those."

FRA applauds Congress and the Administration for enacting this dramatic improvement to a vital military benefit program, and congratulates service members and veterans who will benefit from this expanded opportunity for personal and professional growth.



Lauren Armstrong is Contributing Editor and LA FRA Member at Large.

MCPOCG Bowen on Education Benefits



What response have you heard from enlisted personnel about the new Post-9/11 GI Bill that was recently enacted?

Members of the Coast Guard are extremely excited about this new legislation. I speak with our service members all over the world and no matter where I am or how large the group, the subject of education benefits comes up. In particular, they are very interested in being able to transfer the benefit to their spouse and/or children. Although the details of how the transferability component of this legislation will be implemented are still being clarified, there will be a transferability option in some shape or form. This is great news for all service members.

Prior to enactment, there was a lot of discussion about the impact of transferability on military retention. How do you think the ability to transfer education benefits to family members will impact retention? What impact will it have on recruiting?

The new Post-9/11 education benefit is extremely generous, and there's a chance that such an extensive program may encourage some to leave the military to pursue a college degree, particularly those who might be on the fence about staying in the service. But I believe the transferability option will encourage people to stay in longer and will help retention. They will have the option of using the benefit for themselves or transferring it to a spouse or children. You can never go wrong with getting an education and, with the transferability component, the family will benefit one way or another.

I also believe the new benefit will help military recruiting efforts. Coast Guard recruiting has been very successful even before the new legislation. We are filling our quotas with high-quality recruits and generally have a

waiting list for incoming personnel.

The former education benefits were certainly an important recruiting incentive, but this new program will really open things up. I don't see how it cannot help recruiting.

Do you envision the improved benefit having a different impact on career enlisted personnel versus younger service members?

Career force personnel have an even more robust education benefit if they choose to use it. The cost of education increases annually and it's good to know that the benefit can help service members take care of their family's educational needs, too. Everyone in the military will benefit.

As I mentioned, I think younger people will be more inclined to join the service because of this new benefit. The elimination of the enrollment fee is particularly important to new members of the Coast Guard. Many recruits do not enroll in the current MGIB program because they don't feel they can afford the \$100 a month during their first year of service. For a recruit with dependents and/or pre-service debt, it could literally be a choice between paying for education benefits or eating that month. Eliminating the enrollment fee obviously eliminates that concern and allows the recruits to really focus on the basic building blocks of recruit training — physical fitness, Core Values, Guardian Ethos, and learning their place in the service.

Based on your interactions with active duty and reserve personnel, how do education benefits rank among the quality-of-life benefits available to service members?

Education ranks very high with Coast Guard personnel. Pay, housing and

medical care are consistently ranked at the top of the benefit list. When we get down to it, food, shelter and health-care needs will always come first. But education comes right after those.

What's your perspective on the value of legislative advocacy with regard to enhancing and maintaining quality-of-life programs?

The needs of military personnel are not well-understood on Capitol Hill. Organizations like FRA tell our story and they tell it well, making sure our voice is heard by lawmakers. For example, this summer I heard a lot of questions from VEAP-era personnel who did not have access to education benefits. There are relatively few folks left in that situation and among some it has not been a high priority in the halls of Congress. FRA made sure our elected officials understood why it was important and made sure these people were included in the recent education reform measure.

Is there any other message you would like to share regarding military education benefits?

I'm very proud of the Coast Guard's Tuition Assistance (TA) program. It's grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years and is being utilized in a huge way. I encourage all members of the Coast Guard to pursue higher education. Not only does it pay dividends while in the service, it's incredibly important when transitioning to the civilian work force. Your military experience will normally get your foot in the door, but without a degree, you may not get a second look. Military experience and a degree will put you at the top of the heap.

FRA Honors 2008 Sailors of the Year

IN SUPPORT OF THE Navy's 2008 Sailors of the Year (SOY) program, FRA arranged meetings between the Navy's most outstanding first-class petty officers and their respective members of Congress. The annual meetings allow lawmakers to recognize the Sailors for their exemplary military service and offer an opportunity to discuss a variety of issues impacting active duty and Reserve personnel and their families, such as recent legislation that dramatically enriches military education benefits. The SOYs were able to thank Senator James Webb (Va.), Representatives Bob Filner (Calif.), Thelma Drake (Va.) and Tom Davis (Va.) who have all supported legislation this year enhancing the quality of life for the military community.

The SOY selection process is a year-long competition based on superior performance, type of duty, leadership, self-improvement, personal appearance, command, and community involvement. IS1(SW/AW) Heather Strow (2008 Chief of Naval Operations Shore SOY), ABF(AW/

SW) Justin Melton (Pacific Fleet Sea SOY), EOD1(ESW) Tyrone Logan (US Fleet Forces Command Sea SOY) and AT1(AW/NAC) Kathleen Reilly (Navy Reserve SOY) were named the top senior petty officers in their respective commands and exemplify the Navy's core principles of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

"FRA is proud to recognize the 2008 Sailors of the Year. They have made remarkable accomplishments and are truly the best of the best. They are outstanding representatives for the Navy and for their fellow Sailors around the world," said National Executive Director Joe Barnes.

In addition to visits with their elected officials, FRA hosted a reception for the SOYs and arranged a tour of the Capitol. Throughout SOY Week, the four outstanding Sailors met with numerous governmental and military leaders including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Admiral Mark Ferguson III, and Master Chief



ABF (AWISW) Justin Melton met with Virginia Rep. Tom Davis. FRA photo by Chris Slawinski.

Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joseph Campa. Each of the SOYs was meritoriously promoted to Chief Petty Officer in a ceremony on 17 July.

FRA was instrumental in establishing the Navy Sailors of the Year (SOY) program in the 1970s when the All-Volunteer Force was established and has been a strong and continuing sponsor of the program since its inception. FRA branches also hosts recognition events during the preliminary SOY selection process, including involvement in San Diego, Calif.; Norfolk, Va.; and the Washington, D.C., area.



Sailors of the Year (l to r) EOD1(ESW) Tyrone Logan (US Fleet Forces Command Sea SOY), AT1(AW/NAC) Kathleen Reilly (Navy Reserve SOY), IS1(SW/AW) Heather Strow (2008 Chief of Naval Operations Shore SOY), and ABF(AWISW) Justin Melton (Pacific Fleet Sea SOY) pose with MCPON Campa. US Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer Villalovos.



Pacific Fleet SOY ABF (AWISW) Justin Melton (left) and EOD1 (ESW) Tyrone Logan, US Fleet Forces Command Sea SOY, met with Senator James Webb (Va.) during visits to Capitol Hill. US Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer Villalovos.

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We stumbled upon a cache of giant natural rubies at a local artisan's workshop. He brought these exotic Burmese Rubies to Bali and now we have brought them home to you. Our necklace showcases a genuine **22½ carat** facet cut ruby set in a frame of .925 sterling silver in the Balinese style. *That's right—22½ carats!*

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a bezel of sterling silver and then wrapped with a twisted rope. The Oval Ruby Pendant measures approximately 1¼" by 1½." This exotic pendant suspends from an 21" silver snake chain and secures with an spring ring clasp. Drape this pendant around your neck for a bold luxurious look. And, since rubies are rarer than diamonds, we hope your rings don't get jealous. Most likely, this will be the largest precious gemstone that you will ever own.

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BRANCH 219 RICHMOND, VA.

Michael B. Phaup, Director of the VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va., (far left) and Assistant Director Deanne Seeking (far right) honored volunteers who have given over 3,750 hours in the past year. Shpmate Donald Charles Neslon, 30-year FRA member and Clyde Jackson from Blinded Veterans Association were recognized.



BRANCH 29 BREMERTON, WA

Shipmate Kirk Viestenz received his 40-year continuous membership pin and certificate from President Bob Hulet.



BRANCH 186 HERNANDO, FLA.

Stephen Wenner, USN, was welcomed home from his tour of duty in Iraq at a reception. Secretary Bob Huscher presented Wenner a gift card and FRA membership. Barbara Mills, program founder and coordinator looks on.



BRANCH 46 HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dan Del Monte, Americanism/Patriotism Chairman, presents the first place winner, 10th Grader Ashley Ford Ferguson of Waialua High School, a \$300 U.S. Savings Bond.



BRANCH 245 BELLINGHAM, WASH.

PRPNW Tom Flanik, USMC (Ret.), received a meritorious achievement award for years 1977–2008 for his service in multiple roles. (L to R) PRPNW Marian Dent, PRPNW Tom Flanik, VP Vert Puckett and President Bob Baisden.

BRANCH 285 SYRACUSE, N.Y.

RPNE James R. Smith visited the branch recently to present continuous membership pins and update members on Association business.

**BRANCH 229 NEW WINDSOR, N.Y.**

At the branch's 50th anniversary, Daniel McHale and his mother Jan-Marie flank retired GySgt Charlie Jones, USMC (Ret.). Jones was the jeep driver for General Chesty Puller, who presented the Silver Star to Mrs. McHale's father.

**BRANCH 276 OMAHA, NEB.**

Branch Americanism Chairman James Black presented Americanism Essay Contest awards to 7th grader Samantha Morford and 9th grader Daniel Mayorga.

**BRANCH 136
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**

Youth Activities Chairman, Richard Garty presented a flag to Haywood Siejko at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Troop 84, Maple Grove, Minn.

**BRANCH 287
LIVERMORE, CALIF.**

Robert S. Weil was recently awarded his 40-year continuous member pin.

To submit a photo for News From the Branches, please e-mail a photo as an attachment in jpeg format to FRAToday@fra.org or mail a high-quality photograph to *FRA Today*, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include a brief description of the photograph and include the names of those pictured. Laser prints and scanned copies of photographs cannot be accepted.

NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Adams, J.L., ETC	024	Delrosario, John, AKCM	046
Adams, John E., Sr., MLCS	061	Dillon, Shiril A., BMCS	MAL
Adams, Johnie, ABCS	MAL	Discar, Santos, EMCM	MAL
Allen, Edison F., MGYSGT	091	Disher, Greg, LTC	238
Allen, Roy L., E-6 USNR	MAL	Domashinski, John, CTICS	369
Anderson, Garth B., ETC	MAL	Domoretsky, Vasily, BMC	MAL
Angelini, Arthur A., BMCS	MAL	Donaldson, John W., AMSC	MAL
Angi, Lewis, GMM1	020	Duessel, Harold C., LCDR USN	163
Armstrong, Harry C., TMC	061	Duffy, Harry E., Jr., ADR1	136
Ashley, Fred H., SKCM	163	Dunham, Harry D., HTC	005
Atteberry, Philip, HTC	MAL	Duntz, Clifford W., YNC	MAL
Bailey, Denzil, BTC	MAL	Egelus, Donal J., EQCM	104
Bailey, Lonnie I., MSGT	094	Ellingwood, Leonard D., CSK/COMD	MAL
Bailey, William H., Jr., HMCR	204	English, John S., Jr., YN1	192
Baker, Franklin R., BT1	MAL	Factor, Richard C., AOCS	042
Becker, Francis G., MMCM	136	Falterman, Luke C., HT1	092
Beckwith, William D., HMCM(SS/SW)	103	Farley, Richard N., GMMC	063
Blankenship, Torbet W., DCC	375	Felder, Russell L., ENC	MAL
Bobbitt, Johnie D., AOC	160	Ferjo, John, Jr., GMC	120
Bohnhoff, Melvin W., AD1	MAL	Flint, Robert, YN1	MAL
Bond, Lee, BMC	MAL	Ford, Paul B., RMCS	MAL
Boucher, Vernon A., ATCS	030	Fritz, Charles W., CAPT USN	MAL
Boutelle, Arthur K., Jr., PH1(AC)	MAL	Frohs, Robert H., DCCM	216
Bradley, Clyde W., HM1	MAL	Garrelts, Larry H., ETCS(SS)	274
Bradshaw, Henry A., LT USN	MAL	Garrison, William N., RMC	MAL
Brayton, Roger T., QMC	MAL	Gelvin, Robert A., GYSGT	339
Bristow, James E., MSC	334	Giddings, Floyd H., PO2 USN	MAL
Brownell, Merrill S., PO2 USN	MAL	Goodspeed, Warren L., AECS	MAL
Broyles, Carlos W., AMCS	009	Gorka, Clifford J., ADR1	136
Bryant, William L., EM1	MAL	Gorski, Edward J., ENCS	017
Buckman, Joseph P., ADR2	010	Goss, Joseph G., MMCM(SS)	108
Burleson, James N., HM1	289	Grant, Duane H., TM1(SS)	096
Burns, Roy T., ADC	010	Gripp, Lee A., AOC	MAL
Cake, Paul M., RMCS	050	Grow, Roy, TMC	MAL
Calvert, William S., BT1	050	Haigler, Robert G., LCDR USN	123
Castillo, Roberto M., POC USN	MAL	Hale, Robert J., HMC	104
Cawthon, John D., GMC	022	Hallmark, William A., ADJC	126
Coberly, Ira J., YN1	MAL	Harris, Haven F., AFMC	MAL
Cohn, James A., CS1	MAL	Harris, Thomas, SFC	311
Comer, Robert E., OT1	MAL	Harvey, William N., BMCM	MAL
Conway, Michael J., YNCS(SS)	214	Hegdahl, Alfred A., PNC	101
Cook, Lloyd, AQC	097	Henniger, Gordon A., PO1 USN	208
Cook, Raymond, ATC	162	Hermesen, John W., MNMC	MAL
Coombs, Earl C., QMC	156	Hilley, Stanley D., RMC	202
Cotterman, Oris D., 1STSgt	014	Hines, Cloyd V., LCOL USMC	208
Craft, Jack, DT2	159	Hoeper, Frank A., ADCS	327
Culligan, David J., TMC(SS)	219	Holmberg, George R., ADRC	136
Curlee, Geany R., HTC	MAL	Holt, James R., CUCM	120
Daugherty, Bernard W., ADJC	MAL	Hopper, John E., HMC	104
Davis, Donald T., GMG1	MAL	Horning, Bradley L., CEC	369
Debusk, Thomas, AMC	MAL	Hunt, James, YNC	053
Dehart, Dillard L., AMCS	MAL	Huntington, Robert L., GMCM	085



NAME	BRANCH
Hutzler, Charles L., Sr., GMCS	099
Iverson, Lawrence, MCPO USN	MAL
Jacobs, Isidore, HM1	MAL
Joeckel, Charles E., Jr., CPL	024
Johnson, Earl E., UTC	291
Jones, Donald L., MSGT	163
Kauffman, Charles R., YNC	099
Keeling, Jack R., MMC	MAL
Kipp, John D., MSGT	174
Kirk, Gale, BMC	MAL
Klabunde, James, SK1	MAL
Koons, Charles M., ACCS	099
Koricanek, Julius J., ENC	MAL
Kroeze, Stella J., HM1	MAL
Lahnala, Leonard E., SN USN	029
Laird, Walter L., MSGT	MAL
Lancaster, Robert L., CPO USN	MAL
Larson, Richard A., MMCM(SS)	050
Lawson, Kenneth W., MMC	MAL
Leary, Richard P., ABH2	146
Lee, William J., ADJC	010
Levin, Hyman, E-8 USN	042
Loew, Nelson L., AMSC	217
Loftus, Nolan, ABH1	101
Lonsberry, Albert J., RMC(SS)	MAL
Lukas, Paul L., MMC	115
Malinowski, Paul E., GYSGT	MAL
Mallard, Bernard C., GYSGT	175
Maloney, William E., LCDR USN	MAL
Manchester, William D., SKC	103
Mank, David A., CTM1	MAL
May, Richard, RMC	MAL
McCash, Russell L., PR1	018
McLain, Clyde C., MMCM	382
McLaughlin, Thomas B., USN RET	MAL
McLellan, John, MM1	MAL
McManus, James P., GMC	MAL
Melton, Kyle E., ET1	MAL

NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Merritt, John T., Jr., USN	289	Shine, Henry, CAPT USN	MAL
Messer, Loyd W., MMC	282	Shropshire, Edwin D., CAPT USN	MAL
Miller, Donald R., ADJ1	126	Silverthorne, Wm. A., ADR1	MAL
Miller, Millard E., BTC	047	Spinella, Patrick, ADRC	008
Moore, Peter E., ADR2	197	Springer, Stephen J., PHCM	009
Muckelvene, James M., BTC	257	Stanfield, Eugene M., ADJC	MAL
Murawski, Edward H., GM2	101	Stevens, Joseph B., MSC	MAL
Murphy, Gordon J., DKCM	269	Stout, Herman E., 1STSGT	MAL
Neville, James R., HMC	009	Suarez, Edward E., CSCS	126
Newby, Wayne T., TM1	MAL	Summers, Harold M., GMGC	008
Nichols, Charles, OM1	MAL	Sypniewski, William A., MAJ USMC	MAL
Ochs, James R., SKC	099	Thibodeau, David L., Jr., BTCM	060
Oderkirk, Robert A., CPO USN	MAL	Thomas, Ernest J., Jr., VET	024
Offenbacher, Ernest, HTCM	110	Thompson, John T., YNC	217
Olszta, Chester R., ETC	018	Thornhill, George L., ADC	009
Owen, Earl D., PNCS	MAL	Tomlinson, Billy E., ADRC	022
Owens, James, RM1	334	Tourney, Keith M., LT USN	MAL
Pangle, George W., AMSC	MAL	Trenholm, Mirl J., EN2	MAL
Papacoda, Anthony, TMC	MAL	Trice, Edgar O., GMG1(SS)	216
Pare, Joseph G., YNC	031	True, Ernest V., ADCS	MAL
Pelham, Harold R., AWC	MAL	Turner, Norman W., ENC	MAL
Pennington, Ronald M., ETCM	MAL	Valentine, Byron, HT1	MAL
Persinger, Lewis A., BMC	MAL	Walker, Bobby L., YN1	MAL
Picatoste, Rodolfo R., PO1 USN	247	Warnstadt, Paul W., WO1 USN	038
Pollack, Andrew, PO1 USN	230	Warren, Earl, OSCM	MAL
Rabtoy, Marvin, CPL/BU1	MAL	Weber, John G., SSGT	MAL
Reese, Estill, BMCM	MAL	Welch, Lonza, SK1	MAL
Reigner, Kenneth J., SGTMAJ	163	Wert, Woodrow W., TMC(SS)	008
Reilly, Thomas J., EMC	MAL	Westberg, Ted R., AK1	276
Rickman, Floyd E., PNCM	MAL	Westcott, Charles L., EMCS	043
Rivera, David, BMCS	MAL	Whallon, Victor W., GMC	009
Robinson, Donald W., LCDR USN	261	Wiczu s, Joseph, ADC	MAL
Robinson, Paul, IC1	068	Wielgus, Edward S., SKCM	126
Robles, Arsenio C., SS2	084	Wiles, Robert W., Jr., BMC	MAL
Roessle, John F., MMC	009	Wilkerson, James M., BMC	022
Rohrick, James R., RM1	276	Williams, Booker T., BTC	217
Rose, Joe J., TMCS(SS)	010	Williamson, Rudolph P., ENC	MAL
Rosier, Kenneth E., QMC	MAL	Wilson, Russell S., ADR2	096
Runyan, Howard R., WO1 USN	310	Wilt, William R., AO1	049
Rupert, Frederick R., CWO4 USN	024	Wiseman, Robert L., MCPO USN	046
Saale, Bobby L., SKCM	MAL	Wleklinski, Ralph J., GYSGT	MAL
Saccone, Francis, SK1	188	Wolfe, George A., ADCS	MAL
Samuel, Luther, Jr., CPO USN	046	Woods, Richard L., HMCS	061
Sarafin, Peter P., CPO USN	334	Word, Robert D., BM2	014
Seaver, James W., CWO USN	022	Wright, Donald L., HTC	050
Seevers, Clinton R., MSGT	MAL	Zimmerman, Robert V., LT USN	038
Shannon, Edwin L., DKCS	067	Zucco, Francis, MMCS	MAL
Sheehy, Thomas J., EMC	104		
Shepherd, Lester E., AEC	126		
Sherman, Lawrence E., LCDR USNR	MAL		

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Richard E. Byrd (DDG 23)
1–5 October 2009, Herndon, VA. Contact David L. Cunningham, 916 Timberlake Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464, 757-467-6682 or DCunnin884@aol.com.

USS Chevalier (DD/DDR 805)
8–12 September 2008, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact Malachi & Sharan Dews, P.O. Box 694 Whitehouse, TX 75791, 903-839-2030 or mdews54427@aol.com.

USS FAIRVIEW (EPCER-850)
25–27 September 2008, Pigeon Forge, TN. Contact Frank A. Jones Jr., 15 Sunset Point Rd., Yarmouth, ME 04096-5931, 207-846-0874 or fjones@maine.rr.com.

USS Gatling (DD-671)
11–14 September 2008, Wells, ME. Contact Bob Smithson, 9645 S. 51st St., Phoenix, AZ 85044, 480-496-0705 or busibob@aol.com.

USS Grand Canyon (AD/AR-28)
16–20 September 2008, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Robert T. Dunn, 7654 Landau Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46227-2517, 317-881-8866 or robert.t.dunn@att.net.

USS Gyatt (DD-712/DDG-1)
19–22 October 2008, Charleston, SC. Contact Don Cain, 843-553-2451.

USS Lough (DE-586 & PCE-1129)
14–16 August 2008, Leesburg, VA. Contact Mell Dean, 863-221-8164.

USS Manley (DD-940) Association
23–27 April 2009, Chicago, IL. Contact Joe Dennison, 386-767-8068 or reunionplanner@ussmanleydd940.org.

USS Susan B. Anthony (AP-72) & Mona Island
8–11 August 2008, Boston, MA. Contact Donna Rumrill, 1176A River Drive, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255, 860-923-3532 or geo/ee@yahoo.com.

USS William C. Lawe (DD-763)
16–19 October 2008, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact Kenneth C. Coons, 95 W. Alex Dr., Clayton, NC 27520, 919-553-3844 or kcoonsr729@aol.com.

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Dr. Steffanie Seaver PSY.D is an expert in the area of interpersonal relationships. Researcher, author and accomplished public speaker, she has lectured nationwide for over a decade. Dr. Seaver has also been involved with several publications covering relationship and lifestyle issues.

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*See Reader's Note for details.



Erectile Dysfunction vs. Male Enhancement

Read what our resident expert, Steffanie Seaver, PSY.D, had to say about both, and which one applies to YOU ...

Q: Dear Steffanie,

My husband and I were recently debating the difference between **ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION** and **MALE ENHANCEMENT**. I'm sure there's not a man on the planet who wouldn't want to perform better in the bedroom, particularly as they start to get up there in years. But does it necessarily mean it's time to see the doctor? There seems to be so many products on the market these days from prescription drugs to natural supplements. My husband and I thought the only ones that really worked were on the prescription side. Then we tried a non-prescription product called **MAXODERM** that we saw on TV – all I can say is **WOW!** He said the feeling was indescribable and the best part is he literally began feeling it in under a minute! Talk about being spontaneous. It really did wonders for him ... and ultimately for me. Do you know anything about this product and if it worked so well for my husband, does that mean he has **E.D.**?

"E.D or Not E.D", FL

A: Dear Reader,

I'm glad to hear someone else other than me is trying to differentiate between E.D. and Male Enhancement. E.D. is a condition that should be treated by a physician and managed under physician supervision. But you hit it right on the head in that from all my years in interpersonal relationships, I don't think I've ever heard a man say that he wouldn't want to be "ENHANCED" from time to time. The basic definition of enhance is "to make greater, as in value, beauty, or effectiveness". Show me one man who wouldn't want to make his virility greater or more effective. My point is that a man's desire to enhance his virility is as natural as a young boy's desire to grow up to be big and strong.

“My point is that a man's desire to enhance his virility is as natural as a young boy's desire to grow up to be big and strong.”

Now, about **MAXODERM** ... My first experience with it came from a friend of mine who was having some issues with her husband when it came to those "intimate" moments. Apparently her husband was everything a wife dreams about – great looking, successful, and thoughtful in the bedroom. Who knows whether it was physiological or psychological, but he was having trouble with consistency in the bedroom. She read an article on **MAXODERM** and then saw it on TV and mustered up the nerve to buy it for him. Because it's topical she felt it could be just what they were looking for to help improve their intimacy. Well it turns out that he was considering trying the product himself. So they gave it a try.

According to her account, here's what **SHE** got out of it:

1. It's recommended by Leading Physician, Michael A. Savino, M.D., F.A.C.S.
2. It broke down any and all barriers they had in their intimacy.
3. They experienced intensified sensations for the ultimate experience.
4. It literally took less than 60 seconds for him to begin feeling the effects.
5. They definitely noticed a difference in virility and the feeling of firmness.
6. Because he could feel the difference with his very first application, he was confident that it really was working.
7. The result ... **MALE ENHANCEMENT!!**

You see, my friend's husband didn't need a prescription, at least not yet anyway. He needed Male Enhancement. And of all the products I've reviewed, **MAXODERM** is the only one that provides those types of results, virtually on an **INSTANT** basis. The scientists behind this patented formula (that's right – the formula was actually issued a patent by the US Patent and Trademark Office) say that once applied, the formulation immediately goes to work affecting surface area capillaries at the source of application. A member of the medical community has even voiced in on it: **Dr. Michael A. Savino, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, had this to say: "Reviewing the available scientific data and clinical information, the **MAXODERM** formulation seems to possess the ability to enhance the quality of erections. This absorbing lotion may be the answer for many men and women who desire to improve their sex lives."

So gentlemen, when you're trying to figure out which one applies to you, remember ... see your doctor about **ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**, but I highly recommend **MAXODERM** for **INSTANT MALE ENHANCEMENT!**

You can check out **MAXODERM** by calling **1-800-420-1406** or going to www.getmaxoderm.com. I know they offer **RISK FREE TRIALS** and even give a **FREE MONTH SUPPLY** with your phone or web order. Oh and best of all, **MAXODERM** is backed by a 90 Day Money Back Guarantee. You can't beat that!

Delightfully Yours,

Steffanie Seaver



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PC1 Colin R. Sasselli (and wife, Harue)

Last seen by my wife Shizue who was visiting in Japan and attended his retirement ceremony at Fleet Mail Center, Yokohama, in 1985. He lived and worked in the Yokohama area for a number of years, and then returned to the States, possibly Colorado. We were stationed together at FMC Yokohama, 1978-1981. Please contact Patrick F. Huston, 455 Wimpole Lane SW, Palm Bay, FL 32908-3374, 321-984-2293 or phuston001@cfl.rr.com.

Company 498, NTC San Diego, October – December 1956

Those who served at USNAU Clarksville Base, Tennessee (Ft Campbell, KY) contact Pat Whitehead, pmwhitehead1@msn.com or 770-719-1091.

Donald Holmberg

Originally from Washington State. We were stationed together in VS-38 and aboard the USS Bennington (CVS-20). Contact: Dean Marchione, 134 E. Bay Avenue, Norfolk, VA, 23503, 757-588-2268 or 757-692-4090.

Charles L. Sparks

Stationed at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Company No. 149, April, May, June, 1948, in Great Lakes, Ill. Company Commander was BMC B. Krofssik. Contact Don Swanson, 58 Kendall Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445, 775-623-3469 or donatkerak@aol.com

Hershel Elmore

From Texas. We were stationed together at COMNAVACTS UK, London from 1965 to 1968. He was at NAS Corpus Christi after that. Please contact Bob Holmes, 830-372-2132 or bobcholmes@yahoo.com.

Boot camp group photo of CO. 47-162, NTC, San Diego, Calif.

Contact Franklin C. Elledge, 3018-B Dale Court, Snellville, GA 30078, 770-972-4108 or elledge126@aol.com

Crew members of VP50 SG9 crew era 1960-1962

Contact Gerald Smith, 3642 Castle Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33540 or call 813-779-0537.

Richard & Pat Rice

Home state Wisc. or Minn. Would appreciate hearing from them or anyone that knows them. Richard probably retired in the 70s. Last saw them in Norfolk, Va. in 71-72. Contact Mel & Milly Garza, 10712 Watchful Fox Dr., Austin, TX 78748 garza7659@att.net 512-292-1828

AMH-1 Esequel "Poncho" Cervantez USN (Ret)

Served in VQ-2 Rota, Spain 1965-1967 and VXN-8 Patuxent River, Md 1968-1969. In 1969 was assigned to England. Contact Ronald A. Miller 615-967-8335 or E-Mail ronald.miller194@comcast.net

Looking for shipmates in Company 51-309 NTC San Diego

Formed about 7 March 1951, our Company Commander was T.R. Gutierrez. Contact Frank Chavies, frankchavies1@windstrem.net.

Shipmates and friends of Richard "Dick" Ganley

Served as a corpsman aboard the USS Haven (AH-12) in the 1950s-60s. Contact Denise Ganley (granddaughter), ladypsylocke@hotmail.com or 480-248-9234.

Maurice G. Boudreau, GMG

Calvin Collard, SH

Warren F. Lear, SKCS

Marvin J. and Merlin E. Sevensing, HMC

Contact William Duncanson, HMC (Ret.) 713 Cherry Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307 or call 231-796-4416.

Harold Lawson, wife Vetta

Last known duty station was Rhode Island. Contact Donna May, 479-636-6820.

Former Photographic Intelligencemen (PT)

For possible reunion. Contact Jerry Coppins, 276-638-7447.

A01 Boykins and A01 Adams, ship's company aboard USS Lexington (CVA-16), 1961-1962. Any AOs aboard USS Hornet (CVA-12), 1954-1955.

Contact Robert E. Lange at 513 Pine Hill Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452, 757-463-2653.

NTDS School

Anyone who served at NTDS School prior to 1970, contact Mervin E. Deal, PO Box 869, Dundee, FL 33838.

"Tex" Roberts

Served in the post office aboard USS Ranger (CV-4), 1944-1945. Contact Hudson Bubar, 903-829-8060.

TM2 Dave Parsons

Stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, around 1997. I believe he went to an FFG in California after that. Contact SK1 Tamara Burrow, 403 Sherrill Drive, Batesville, AR 72501, 870-613-1457, or Kachoo22@aol.com.

Shipmates who served aboard USS YMS-21 during WWII, sunk in the European Theater. Shipmates who attended Navy Boot Camp, June-September 1939, Newport, RI.

Company commander was QMC Forte. Contact C.E. Johnson, 1304 Bald Mountain Cove, Hiawassee, GA 30546, 706-896-4901.

SN Charles Edward Dean

From Dallas, Texas. He served aboard USS Kearsarge (CVS-33) in 1959-1960, working in Engineering Log Room. Contact YN1 Marshall Blunt, 828-693-8727 or 828-691-4442.

Lt W.S. Anderson, PPC; ADR2 William Young, PC; AMS1 Mannie Mancuso; AE1 Brown, or any flight crew members of SG-9, VP-50 (1960-1962).

Contact Gerald Smith, 813-779-0537, shirereef@verizon.net.

Jerald Jackson

Was MR2 while stationed at Binh Thuy, Vietnam in 1970-1971. Contact Joe Walker at 118 W. Gandy Street, Denison, TX 75021-3043, 904-463-0285.

These notices are published on a space available basis. Notices must be submitted in writing.

E-mail fratoday@fra.org or mail your request to: FRA, Looking for..., 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA, 22314.

Message from the Southwest Regional President

TRAVELING THE SOUTHWEST REGION this year, a nuance occurred which does not run throughout the region.

Just a reminder, during an Auxiliary Meeting if members are in the same room or within hearing distance of the “TWO BELL CEREMONY”, please stand and be silent until the end. By this we are showing our respect, support and gratitude to a fallen shipmate.

Unit 70 of Poway started this ritual a few years ago, and many shipmates have expressed their appreciation. Just think they touched more than our lives, but also those they served with and those they served. Remembrances are only a part of OUR service to the sea service members.

What a wonderful greeting it is to add NP Gail Doloway’s son to the Auxiliary. It proves the importance of growth of our organization is catching on. We need input of ideas from all members. We welcome all new Auxiliary members and hope they will assist in adding to our membership. The more members, the more ideas and the better enthusiasm from all will be appreciated.

The most important thing that has impressed me, is watching how welcome you make everyone who attends your meetings feel. I am working and looking forward to visiting all of the units of the Southwest Region.

We hope to see as many members from all regions attend both their Regional and National Convention.



DARLENE SLAUGHTER
Regional President, Southwest

Fran Hoadley is the editor of *LA FRA News* and the *FRA Today* Liaison.



**West Coast Midyear
Carson City, Nevada**

NP Gail Doloway initiating the members



**West Coast Midyear
Carson City, Nevada**

*(l to r) Members in over 30 years:
Florence Simontacchi, Unit 101; Lida
Ayers, Unit 274; Two New Members:
Ameilia Ruiz, Unit 101; Debbie
Wroblewski, Unit 274*



Memorial Day Services 2008

*Unit 15 Walhalla, South Carolina
(l to r) Past President Carol Spencer
and President JoAnn Darmofal
placing a wreath at the Memorial
Day Services.*



Asbestos Cancer Hits Former Sailors

Many sailors who served their country proudly aboard ships in the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War eras, are now being **diagnosed with asbestos-related cancers.**

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*The most comprehensive
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MESOTHELIOMA LUNG CANCER

Mesothelioma is a form of lung cancer that is only caused by exposure to asbestos. It can take twenty years or longer for the Mesothelioma to develop after the asbestos exposure. The dangers of asbestos were known to the manufacturers and concealed by them for years. As a result people were exposed to asbestos and developed Mesothelioma. We help achieve justice for the victims of Mesothelioma and their family members.

LEGAL, MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with MESOTHELIOMA LUNG CANCER, please call us immediately for information about your legal rights, medical and financial assistance. Victims of Mesothelioma and their families are put under enormous emotional and financial stress. We are experienced in counseling and assisting our clients and their families with the difficult issues they face once a diagnosis of Mesothelioma has been confirmed. We want to help you and your family find the answers to your questions and achieve the financial security needed to deal with the hardships that result from Mesothelioma. Call today to discuss your claim with a lawyer.

MONETARY COMPENSATION

Monetary compensation may be available to persons who have been diagnosed with MESOTHELIOMA LUNG CANCER. Jury trials for MESOTHELIOMA have resulted in verdicts compensating victims of MESOTHELIOMA for over a million dollars*. Our clients only pay legal fees, court costs and other expenses out of any judgment or settlement in the case.

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