

YOUR MISSION • YOUR VOICE

FRA *today*



Convention News

Updates from Branson

A View from the Bridge 5
NP Muccheck's Perspective

Senior Leadership Forum 23

U.S. NAVY

MESOTHELIOMA



If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with, or died from asbestos related **lung cancer** or **mesothelioma**, we may be able to help you get monetary compensation from the asbestos companies.

BERGMAN & FROCKT

Experienced Legal Counsel for Victims of Asbestos Diseases

614 First Avenue, Fourth Floor

Seattle, WA 98104

www.bergmanlegal.com

Toll Free
(888) 647-6007

THE NORTHWEST'S LEADING FIRM IN ASBESTOS LITIGATION

Featured

12 CONVENTION COMMUNICATIONS FROM BRANSON, MISSOURI

A recap of Association business, convention speakers and delegate fun

Departments

2 COMMUNICATIONS

5 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

A View from the Bridge

6 SHIPMATE FORUM

8 ON & OFF CAPITOL HILL

Defense Authorization Bill passes

14 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership & Retention Committee

28 HISTORY & HERITAGE

Navy christens new destroyer

26 NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

30 TAPS

31 LOOKING FOR...

32 CONVENTION AWARDS

36 LA FRA NEWS



12



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

FRA National President Don Muccheck poses in front of the fountains at Branson Landing. Muccheck and other national officers were installed at FRA's 81st National Convention in Branson, Missouri. Photo by Chris Slawinski.

Why don't you wash a rental car?



Eileen Murphy

SGTMAJ GENE OVERSTREET SPOKE to shipmates in two different events during the 81st FRA National Convention in Branson, Mo. He sat on the "Focus on the Future" panel and led a workshop called "Motivating Others To Act" (see page 18). During each of these sessions he asked a simple question: "Why don't you wash a rental car?"

Obviously the fact that you don't have ownership or need to worry about its maintenance is the answer. **The bigger question to the members became whether or not they treat membership in FRA like they would a rental car, or do they have true ownership?**

Ownership requires involvement. How can you get involved?

- Attend branch meetings, Regional Mid-year Meetings, Regional Conventions and National Conventions.
- Use the Action Center on www.fra.org and let Congress know what you think.
- Subscribe to *NewsBytes* e-mail updates to keep up on what is happening on a weekly basis (or dial 1-800-FRA-1924 ext. 112 and listen by phone).
- Donate to FRA.
- Recruit a shipmate.
- Call current shipmates and keep them in the loop.
- Volunteer in your community and show what loyalty, protection and service is all about.
- Say great things about FRA to everyone you meet.

You may not be able to do all of the above, but if each shipmate shows true ownership, FRA will grow and continue to prosper for generations to come. In the end, it's your association. Your increased dedication and involvement can only serve to make it even better.

One more way to take ownership ...

On 12 November, FRA will be hosting the Your Mission, Your Voice teleconference at 1200 (EDST). This month's topic is "National President's Forum," during which NP Don Muccheck will discuss his plans for the coming year and hear directly from shipmates about what is on their minds.

Please participate! Dial 877-746-9514 at 1200 (EDST) and enter code 1924. To listen only, please use code 1400.

Are you a Pacific Fleet WWII diver or salvage ship crewmen? If so Lone Wolf Documentary Group would like to interview you for a PBS documentary.

Contact: Sally Levi, Associate Producer
Lone Wolf Documentary Group
8-10 Cottage Road
South Portland, Maine 04106
207-799-9500 (p) Sally@lonewolfdg.com

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.

NATIONAL OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National President	Donald Muccheck, <i>L. Mendel Rivers Branch 50</i>
National Vice President	Gary C. Blackburn, <i>Vallejo Branch 8</i>
National Executive	Joseph L. Barnes, <i>Navy Department Branch 181</i>
Finance Officer	Paul Rigby
Junior PNP	Lawrence J. Boudreaux, <i>Hangtown Branch 275</i>

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

New England	Paul F. Loveless, Jr., <i>Pinetree Branch 156</i>
Northeast	James E. Brown, <i>Staten Island Branch 226</i>
East Coast	Ray E. Santee, <i>Virginia Beach Branch 166</i>
Southeast	John E. Sutton, <i>Mayport Branch 290</i>
North Central	Robert A. Melson, <i>USS Indianapolis Memorial Branch 130</i>
South Central	Donald Larson, <i>Corpus Christi Branch 94</i>
Southwest	Charles F. Tompkins, <i>James Hunter Branch 47</i>
West Coast	Nathan "Joe" Nash, <i>Silver Dollar Branch 192</i>
Northwest	Donald L. Bordwell, <i>Dungeness Branch 174</i>
Nat'l. Parliamentarian	PNP Robert G. Beese, <i>Orange County Branch 175</i>
Nat'l. Chaplain	Tom Whitaker, <i>B. Duke Woody Branch 147</i>

ACTIVE DUTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy	Joe Campa
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps	Carlton Kent
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard	Charles Bowen

RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Force Master Chief of the Naval Reserve	Ronney A. Wright
USMC Reserve Force Sergeant Major	Kim E. Davis
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force	Jeffrey Smith

FRA TODAY MAGAZINE

Publisher	FRA
Managing Editor	Eileen Murphy
Contributing Editor	Lauren Armstrong
Design and Art Direction	FIREBRAND, Alexandria, VA www.firebrandstudios.com
Design Director	Scott Rodgeron
Production Manager	Sandy Jones

FRA TODAY (ISSN 0028-1409) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY FRA, 125 N. WEST ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754. A MEMBER'S SUBSCRIPTION IS COVERED BY THE MEMBER'S ANNUAL DUES. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT ALEXANDRIA, VA AND ADDITIONAL OFFICES. PUBLICATION OF NON-SPONSORED ADVERTISING IN *FRA TODAY* DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE FRA OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MEMBER SERVICES, FRA, 125 N. WEST ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754.** *FRA TODAY* IS PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CURRENT AND FORMER ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE U.S. NAVY, MARINE CORPS, AND COAST GUARD. ELIGIBLE NON-MEMBERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO SUBSCRIPTION RATES. ESTABLISHED 1 NOVEMBER 1923. TITLE REGISTERED WITH U.S. PATENT OFFICE.

FRA ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS: 125 N. WEST ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754
PHONE: 703-683-1400, 800-FRA-1924 • FAX: 703-549-6610 • E-MAIL: FRATODAY@FRA.ORG
WWW.FRA.ORG

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 11



★ ★ ★ TO HONOR YOUR SERVICE TO COUNTRY ★ ★ ★

EXCLUSIVE UNITED STATES MILITARY BIRTHSTONE WATCHES

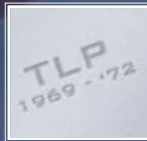
Personalized with Your Birthstones, Monogram, Initials and Service Years

We proudly present our exclusive Military Birthstone watches, to honor those who have served our Country in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Seabees.

The special dial is minted like a fine coin and captures every fine detail of your Service Branch Emblem. A genuine diamond is set at 12 O'clock.

The unique dress bracelet is customized with four brilliant birthstones and your personal monogram. The golden watch bezel, with etched roman numerals frames the dial, and touches of genuine 24 karat gold complete this fine watch.

The precision quartz watch movement keeps accurate time within seconds per month, and provides years of dependable service.



As a final touch of exclusivity, your watch back will be engraved with your initials and years of service along with a monogram of your choice on the band, below the dial.

The watch is delivered to you in a handsome gift box - perfect for Father's Day, Birthdays and Holidays.

Thank You priced at just \$125*, an affordable payment plan is available with no interest. This fine watch is designed by and created exclusively for Veterans Commemoratives™. It is not sold in stores. Your satisfaction is guaranteed 100% or return within 30 days for a refund or replacement.

So, order today with confidence. You have earned the right to wear this unique watch as a permanent reminder of your special place in history.



ARMY

AIR FORCE

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD



SELECT YOUR BIRTHSTONE ABOVE AND ENTER CHOICE ON ORDER FORM.

BIRTHSTONE ARE SIMULATED FOR CONSISTENT SIZE AND CLARITY. NAMES REFER TO COLOR.

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER:

1-800-255-3048

Mon - Fri from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit Card ready when ordering.

FREE  **FLAG PIN**
WITH EACH ORDER

ORDER BY
DECEMBER 15TH
FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY.



MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™ Watch Order Center
Two Radnor Corp. Ctr., Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

YES. I wish to order a Diamond Service Branch Watch featuring my Birthstone and Monogram, as follows:

NAVY Army Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard
 Merchant Marine (not shown) Seabee (not shown)

BIRTHSTONE MONTH (1): _____ **MONOGRAM** (1): _____

INITIALS DESIRED (3): _____ **YRS. SERVED:** _____ to _____

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

- Enclosed is my check or money order for \$125* per watch payable to "Veterans Commemoratives" as payment in full, OR
- Charge my credit card \$125* per watch as payment in full, OR
- Charge my credit card in four monthly installments of \$31.25* each.

* Plus \$12.95 per watch for engraving, shipping & handling. PA residents add 6% sales tax.

CREDIT CARD:

VISA MASTER CARD AMEX DISCOVER

CC#: _____ exp. ____/____

SIGNATURE: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone # (_____) _____

©2008 ICM BRSWAT-NA-1108

FOR OTHER FINE MILITARY WATCHES & RINGS VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES™ ONLINE AT VETCOM.COM



*I will never forget
that I am an American,
fighting for freedom,
responsible for my
actions, and dedicated
to the principles which
made my country free.*

More than a code of conduct, this is at the heart of every Marine.
FRA thanks you for your dedication, bravery and strength. Semper Fidelis!





Donald Muecheck

A View From The Bridge

THANK YOU FOR ELECTING me FRA National President. Your confidence in my leadership is appreciated. As I start my tenure, I would like to share with you my views and priorities for the 2008–2009 Association year.

The 81st FRA National Convention in Branson, Mo., was a tremendous success. It was great to see the energy and enthusiasm shipmates have for FRA. At a pre-convention “Focus on the Future” session more than 50 shipmates heard from a panel consisting of MCPON Duane Bushey, SgtMaj Gene Overstreet, MCPOCG Rick Trent and MCPO Mike Baker about the changing needs and perspectives of today’s active duty and reserve forces. That led to a lively discussion of important topics, which were revisited many times throughout the week and will be the subject of my conversations during my travels this year. We are a vital organization and must focus on our relevance for all enlisted Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel, whether they be active duty, reserve, retired or veterans. Our legislative agenda reaches them all, and so must our recruiting and retention efforts.

The underlying discussion point is this: Recruiting is more of a process than handing over an application. There are many reasons to appreciate membership in FRA. Helping individuals recognize those reasons requires communication and hitting points which are of interest to them. Assure that you understand and reference FRA’s value and importance to prospective members when recruiting. Don’t be discouraged if the person doesn’t know about FRA, but look at that as an opportunity to educate and connect what they need to what we offer.

Using that same principle, remind current members of the need

to maintain their membership. This is not only for their own personal benefit, but also to benefit the entire membership. The larger we are, the more loudly we are heard as we lobby for pay, benefits and quality-of-life issues on Capitol Hill.

An important point was reiterated numerous times throughout Convention. Shipmates like to be involved. Some appreciate the opportunity to volunteer at an event; others like to make phone calls. Letting a prospective member see that there will be opportunities for involvement and leadership can be a great draw, and matching the desire with the need is critically important. What does your branch have to offer someone who would like to help?

Be aware that community service is an important aspect of association work. Any opportunity for outreach — whether it is sponsoring a bowling league or hosting a table at a Veterans’ Day event — is a valuable chance to leave a positive and lasting impression of FRA. Make it a team approach with organization, staffing, promotion and reporting back to the branch and region what happened. Headquarters has provided many tools online to assist branches in publicity efforts. Please call Eileen Murphy at 1-800-FRA-1924 (ext. 127) for an overview of what’s available.

“Operation Red, White & Blue” is another great example of FRA’s commitment to the country by expanding ownership and display of United States Flags as a symbol of patriotism and support for our troops. Additionally, branches can sell these flags for a profit and that money supports the Association’s annual Americanism-Patriotism Essay Contest. Discussing this program with current and prospective members increases

awareness of FRA’s credo of loyalty, protection and service. To get information on this program, call FRA National Headquarters at 1-800-FRA-1924.

Finally, never miss an opportunity to talk to your shipmates. The “Bring ‘em Back” program was designed to help reinstate shipmates whose membership has lapsed. It’s effective and I would like to see every branch using this program. Call lists can be made simply online in the *Area For Branch and Regional Officers* and scripts are available to get you started.

It is perhaps even more important for branches to be proactive. Reach out to your members before they lapse — keep them connected to the branch and listen to them. Hear them when they make suggestions about how to maximize their membership benefit. If you have a branch member who enjoys making phone calls, please get them involved in a routine of reaching out to shipmates. Branches who talk to every member at least once a month have great retention rates!

We can — and will — grow if you take pride in your association and show leadership. If you are interested in starting a new branch, call FRA’s Director of Membership Development Penny Collins at 1-800-FRA-1924 (ext. 123).

As communication is so very important, please join me on 12 November at 1200 EST for a teleconference during which I will discuss many of the topics above and take questions from shipmates. To participate, call 1-877-746-9514 and enter code 1924. To listen only, use code 1400.

Again, I thank you for electing me as your National President. I am honored to serve and look forward to a very productive year.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

I agree with the elimination of the \$1,200 MGIB enrollment fee [in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill]. This should never have been included. All veterans deserve a GI Bill and too many didn't participate because of the enrollment fee.

I disagree with the provision that would pay the equivalent of tuition at an in-state university. States should provide free tuition to veterans who enlist in their state. Illinois has been doing this for years and their veterans have a lifetime to use it.

I also disagree with the monthly stipend of \$1,000 for books. Many veterans were paid thousands of dollars to enlist. Their active duty pay was much better compared to civilian pay than it was for us Vietnam veterans. Veterans who go to school under the GI Bill should get a reasonable monthly amount, but \$1,000 a month? I don't think so. They need to be working some kind of job while attending school, which is good for them.

The new GI Bill is too expensive for our country, which is deeply in debt. I have always thought we should have a draft, eliminate enlistment bonuses and provide a free and reasonable GI Bill for honorably discharged veterans. From my experience as a state veterans' employment representative, I found it easier to find jobs for veterans because of their military dependability and experience.

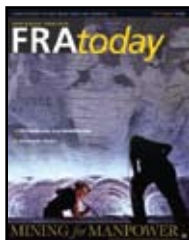
Gerald L. Kessel

FROM FRA: The \$1,000 book allowance is provided annually. Monthly stipends are based on equivalent BAH rates for the school location.

SBP Refund

MCPO Wehle (September *FRA Today*, Shipmate Forum) is concerned about the beginning date of 30-year paid-up SBP and rightly so. It should be figured to the exact month of 360 payments.

However, of greater financial significance is the millions of dollars withheld from retirees (approximately 375,000) who have been paying into SBP since its inception (October 1972) which is 36 years/432 months and into RSFPP (which merged seamlessly with SBP). [These payments] should also be counted in the paid-up



[computation]. In my case, since retirement in May 1969, I have paid for 39 years and 4 months which is 516 months instead of the presently required 360 months.

This is blatant robbery of retirees who honorably served for at least 20 years and upon retirement expected fair treatment from their government. There certainly should be a congressional provision made to reimburse all those retirees who have paid out more than 360 payments, rather than absorb those millions of dollars into the general fund.

George E. Clay, YNC., USN (Ret.)

Hardly Tiny

[Guadalcanal] is hardly a "tiny island." It's larger than both Rhode Island and Delaware, with mountain peaks rising to 8,000 feet and more than a dozen named river on the north shore alone. Take it from an old Marine combat engineer who surveyed the island from stem to stern and called it home, off and on, from 1943 to 1945. To expand further on the 'tiny' canard, Guadalcanal isn't even the largest island in the Solomons. That would be Bougainville. Been there, too, D-Day plus 8.

James P. Frey



From the first oath of enlistment to the playing of taps...

Military Urns Available

Please contact us prior to making your arrangements with a funeral director.

Veteran Caskets Introductory Price \$2,999.00 with Free Shipping*

- 18 Gauge Steel (Gasketed)
- Plush Velvet Interior
- Piping on Interior
- Service Emblem on Cap Panel
- Service Emblem on Exterior
- Piping on Exterior
- U.S. Flag Emblem & Stars on Exterior
- Service Flag with fringe

For information about Urns or other needs please contact us
Toll Free at 800-838-1917 or www.VeteranCaskets.com

* Within the continental United States call or check website for more details

Submissions: Send *Shipmate Forum* letters to: Editor, *FRA Today*, 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail submissions may be sent to fratoday@fra.org. Please include "Shipmate Forum" in the subject line. FRA reserves the right to select and edit letters for publication. Letters published in *Shipmate Forum* reflect the opinions and views of FRA members. They do not necessarily reflect the official position of FRA as a whole. FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content.

"The color and clarity of DiamondAura® rivals that of a flawless D-colored diamond".

—Steven Rozensky
Noted jewelry expert



Receive these scintillating DiamondAura® Classique sterling silver stud earrings **FREE!**

Read details below.

The Fifth C?

Cut, Color, Carat, Clarity...Chemistry?

Is it possible that the mind of a scientist can create more beauty and romance than Mother Nature? The laboratories at DiamondAura® were created with one mission in mind: *Create brilliant cut jewelry that allows everyone to experience more clarity, more scintillation and larger carat weights than they have ever experienced.* So, we've taken 2 ½ carats of our lab-created DiamondAura® and set them in the most classic setting—the result is our most stunning, fiery, faceted design yet! In purely scientific measurement terms, the refractory index of the DiamondAura is very high, and the color dispersion is **actually superior** to mined diamonds.

Perfection from the laboratory. We named our brilliant cut stones DiamondAura, because, "they dazzle just like natural diamonds but without the outrageous cost." We will not bore you

COMPARE FOR YOURSELF AT 2 ½ CARATS		
	Mined Flawless Diamond	DiamondAura® Compares to:
Hardness	Cuts Glass	Cuts Glass
Cut (58 facets)	Brilliant	Brilliant
Color	"D" Colorless	"D" Colorless
Clarity	"IF"	Clear
Dispersion/Fire	0.044	0.066
2 ½ c.t.w. ring	\$60,000+	\$145

with the incredible details of the scientific process, but will only say that it involves the use of rare minerals heated to an incredibly high temperature of over 5000°F. This can only be accomplished inside some very modern and expensive laboratory equipment. After several additional steps, scientists finally created a clear marvel that looks even better than the vast majority of mined diamonds. According to the book *Jewelry and Gems—the Buying Guide*, the technique used in DiamondAura offers, "The best diamond simulation to date, and even some jewelers have mistaken these stones for mined diamonds."

The 4 C's. Our DiamondAura 3-Stone Classique Ring retains every jeweler's specification: color, clarity, cut, and carat weight. The transparent color and clarity of DiamondAura emulate the most perfect diamonds—D Flawless, and both are so hard they

will cut glass. The brilliant cut maximizes the fire and radiance of the stone so that the light disperses into an exquisite rainbow of colors.

Rock solid guarantee. This .925 sterling silver ring is prong-set with a 1 ½ carat DiamondAura round brilliant in the center, showcased between two DiamondAura round brilliants of ½ carats each. Adding to your 4 C's, we will include the DiamondAura stud earrings for FREE! Try the DiamondAura 3-Stone Classique Ring for 30 days. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your purchase, simply return it to us for a full refund of the purchase price and keep the stud earrings as our gift.

Not Available in Stores

DiamondAura® 3-Stone Classique Ring (2 ½ c.t.w.) • \$145 + S&H

FREE stud earrings with purchase of Classique Ring—a \$59.95 value!

Available in ring sizes 5-10

Call to order toll-free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

1-888-201-7095

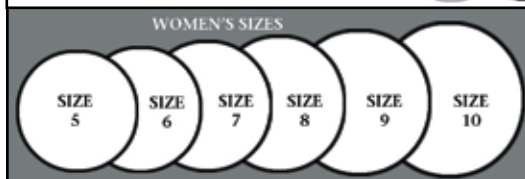
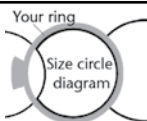
Promotional Code DAR403-02

Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer
HERITAGE OF ART & SCIENCE

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. DAR403-02,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

Place one of your own rings on top of one of the circle diagrams. Your ring size is the circle that matches the inside diameter of your ring. If your ring falls between sizes, order the next larger size.



Abridged Process Results in Passage of Defense Authorization Bill



John Davis

IN THE MILITARY, IT'S often said you have to “hurry-up and wait.” This year’s abbreviated legislative calendar for both authorization and spending legislation (see story below on spending bill) reflected a “wait and hurry-up” approach as Congress passed substantial, complex legislation in the closing days of the session. And the hurried process, related in part to election-year posturing on Capitol Hill, impacted the final product.

Although the House passed its version of the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, H.R. 5658) in May, the Senate version (S. 3001) languished for months. When the Senate finally passed its version of the bill, language that would continue the prohibition on increasing TRICARE fees and pharmacy co-pays was not included, even though the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to extend these prohibitions. The provision was added later, but in the rush to pass the Senate measure before adjournment, several hundred other floor amendments were skipped to speed up passage — several of which were supported by FRA.

The House and Senate passed the hastily-conferenced legislation in the final days of the regular session for the 110th Congress, and President Bush signed it into law on 14 October 2008. The final measure prohibits TRICARE fee increases and pharmacy co-pay increases for one year, authorizes a larger-than-requested pay increase of 3.9 percent, creates a pilot program of preventative care for TRICARE beneficiaries under age 65 and eliminates co-pays for certain preventative services, mandates recalculation of TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) premiums to reflect actual costs, and increases Marine Corps end strength. The measure also includes language that authorizes veterans to salute the flag during the National Anthem when not in uniform.

Amendments to improve concurrent receipt for Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP), allow for early retirement for Reservists mobilized since 9/11/01, streamline military overseas voting, and eliminate the SBP/DIC were not included in the final bill.

FY2009 DoD, VA, and DHS Appropriations Enacted

The House and Senate approved legislation (H.R. 2638) that funds programs in the Departments of Defense (DoD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Homeland Security for FY2009 and authorizes a Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of the federal government until 6 March 2009. The President signed the bill into law on 1 October making it the first time in more than 10 years that the VA and DoD annual spending bills were enacted into law on time.

The DoD Appropriation is \$4 billion less than requested, but 6.2 percent more than FY2008 spending levels. Unfortunately in the rush to get the bill passed, the measure does not provide the extra funds to pay for the 3.9-percent pay increase provided in the authorizing bill (S. 3001). House Appropriations Committee staffers have indicated that DoD will have to reprogram that money (\$239 million) from other parts of the personnel

budget after the authorization measure is signed into law. Increased funding is also included for the Defense Health Program (DHP) in lieu of the Administration’s requested TRICARE fee and pharmacy co-pay increases. The bill also includes funding for barracks, hospitals, and other facilities; military family daycare programs and dependents education; and a new program to pay service members for involuntary extensions to their military service.

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Appropriation (MilCon/VA) is five percent higher than requested and 14 percent more than FY2008. The measure provides increased funding for the Veterans Health Administration; an increased mileage reimbursement rate (41.5 cents per mile) for veterans traveling long distances to VA medical facilities; enrollment in the VA health care system for some Priority 8 veterans; and 2,000 additional claims



processors to reduce the claims backlog at the VA.

The Homeland Security portion of the bill includes \$9.36 billion in funding for the U.S. Coast Guard — \$290 million above the President’s request and \$729 million more than the FY2008 appropriations. The measure also includes money to start construction on the new Homeland Security headquarters at the St. Elizabeth’s Hospital site in Washington, D.C.

TRICARE ISSUES

More \$22 Co-pays for Some Medications

A DoD pharmacy panel has proposed moving certain blood glucose test strips, overactive bladder medications (Detrol and Trospium IR), an antidepressant drug (Pristiq) and a hypertension drug (Sular Geomatrix) to the third tier (\$22 co-pay level) from the \$9 co-pay level. The recommended formulary change will be submitted to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for final resolution.

DoD will notify all beneficiaries currently taking these medications so they and their physicians can consider substitute medications available at the lower co-pay. Information on substitute medications can be found at: <http://www.tricareformularysearch.org/>. Doctors who believe it is imperative for a patient to take the third-tier medications can provide "medical necessity" justification to TRICARE. If approved, the beneficiary will continue receiving the medication at the lower co-pay.

TRICARE Retiree Dental Benefit Available Overseas

Retired TRICARE beneficiaries living overseas may enroll in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP). Effective 1 October 2008, the Enhanced-Overseas TRDP is available for eligible Uniformed Services retirees and their families.

Prior to this change, the TRDP was only available to retirees and their families in the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Canada. The Enhanced-Overseas TRDP now allows retirees worldwide to purchase dental coverage.

Highlights of the benefits available under the Enhanced-Overseas program include:

- Immediate coverage upon effective enrollment date for all routine, preventive and emergency services, such as cleanings, exams, x-rays, fluoride treatments, fillings, oral surgery, periodontal treatment and root canals.
- Coverage for implant services, crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics after only a 12-month waiting period.
- Separate dental accident coverage is included.

Enhanced-Overseas TRDP enrollees who need to locate a dentist for covered services may call the International SOS Assistance, Inc. (I-SOS) 24-hour referral service toll-free at 800-523-6586 (from inside the U.S.) or via collect call to 215-942-8226 (outside of the U.S.). Indicate that Delta Dental is your dental coverage carrier. In addition, an online host-nation provider list of more than 500 dentists and dental clinics in nearly 50 countries is located on the TRDP website. Note that overseas dentists do not offer discounted dental services as do the participating TRDP dentists within the original service areas.

For Enhanced-Overseas TRDP customer service questions, please contact Delta Dental of California via the following international toll-free number: (AT&T USA Direct Access Number) + (866) 721-8737.

TRICARE Offers Respite Care for Wounded Warrior Caregivers

The FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes TRICARE to offer primary caregivers of Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) much needed rest, relief and reprieve. TRICARE will now pay for up to eight hours of care, five days a week, for active-duty service members who are homebound and require frequent assistance from a caregiver.

ADSMs, or their legal representatives, can submit receipts for reimbursement of respite care services that were provided by a TRICARE-authorized Home Health Agency after 1 January 2008. For more information about this benefit visit the TRICARE website at <http://www.tricare.mil>.

More Documentation Necessary to Replace, Renew ID Cards

Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID, one of which must include a photo. The following types of identification are acceptable:

- Driver's license or ID issued by a state or outlying U.S. commonwealth or possession;
- ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities;
- School ID card with a photograph;
- Voter's registration card;
- U.S. military ID card;
- U.S. passport;
- Certificate of U.S. citizenship; or
- Certificate of naturalization.

The listing above is not all-encompassing. A complete list of acceptable documents can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf>, Page 4. It is also recommended that retirees and family members call ahead to verify what specific documents may be required. For contact information and the location of the nearest ID card issuing facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>. On this website, people can search by city, state or ZIP code.

President Expands Federal Job Opportunities for Military Spouses

President Bush issued an Executive Order to increase military spouse employment preferences for all federal agencies. The order includes hiring preferences for surviving spouses and spouses of wounded service members. The President recommended improvements to military spouse employment in his State of the Union address in January 2008. The text of the executive order is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/09/20080926-8.html>.

2008 Defense Forum Assesses Wounded Warrior Care

RPEC Claire Purdy and FRA staff attended the one-day “Measuring Success: Keeping Faith with Wounded Warriors and Their Families” Defense Forum that examined progress on the care and rehabilitation of our wounded warriors and their families. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Senator Carl Levin (Mich.) and Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake were among the speakers at the forum.

Key uniformed service and administration leaders, legislators, health care providers, wounded warriors and family members joined other concerned professionals to discuss subjects such as traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the progress to date on various pilot projects to improve programs and support for wounded warriors.

Recently enacted legislation established a comprehensive policy on the care and management of wounded service members in order to facilitate and enhance their care, rehabilitation, physical evaluation, transition from care by the Department of Defense (DoD) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and transition from military service to civilian life. The measure was ultimately included in the FY2008 Defense Authorization Act. FRA continues to advocate for adequate funding and congressional oversight to ensure these programs are effectively implemented and sustained.

New Resources for Ailing Service Members, Families and Caregivers

WOUNDED WARRIORS

DoD announced that the Military OneSource service has established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center. The center offers a telephone number and e-mail address for service members and their families who have concerns or other difficulties during their recovery process. Service members and their family members can now call 800-342-9647 or e-mail wwrc@militaryonesource.com 24/7 to request support. Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services, but it will offer another avenue of assistance.

DoD also announced the release of its comprehensive handbook describing compensation and other benefits service members and their families would be entitled to upon separation or retirement as a result of serious injury or illness. Compiled in cooperation with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the Social Security Administration, the handbook describes the disability eligibility process, various program qualifications, application procedures, and numerous resources with associated contact information. Web sites and toll-free numbers are provided, and the electronic version (available at <http://turbotap.org>) includes hyperlinks. The electronic version of the handbook will be updated frequently and the hard copy of the compensation and benefits handbook will be updated annually.

CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

The Department of Defense Force Health and Protection Readiness Directorate (FHP & R) launched the Chemical-Biological Warfare Exposures website (<http://fhp.osd.mil/CBexposures>) to provide service members, military retirees, veterans, their families and the public with information on testing of chemical and biological warfare agents from 1942 to 1975. Veterans or retirees who believe that they may have been exposed or who would like more information can contact DoD via email at CBWebmaster@tma.osd.mil or call DoD's contact manager at 800-497-6261, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM (Eastern Time).

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has also set up a web page for chemical exposure at www1.va.gov/shad. Veterans who would like to talk to a VA representative can call the Special Issues Helpline at 800-749-8387.

VA Makes ALS a Presumptive Compensable Illness

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a degenerative nerve disease, will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military. The VA based this decision primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS, which showed that veterans develop ALS at a higher rate than the general population.

The new regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after 23 September 2008, or that are pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date.

To view the entire regulation published in the Federal Register today, go to: www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-21998_PI.pdf. For more information on VA's disability compensation program, go to www.va.gov or contact 1-800-827-1000.

VOTING ISSUES

Senate Passes Military Voting Protection Bill

The Senate passed "The Military Voting Protection Act" (S. 3073) that requires that overseas military votes be delivered to state election officials by air transport. The measure, sponsored by Texas Senator John Cornyn and supported by FRA, was amended to require DoD to ensure prompt delivery to local election officials for any overseas military ballots received a week before the election. If enacted, the law will apply to the 2010 election.

FRA is concerned that less than half of overseas military voters who requested an absentee ballot actually had their votes counted in the 2006 election, according to a September 2007 report of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The Association's concerns are referenced in its legislative agenda and testimony before various congressional subcommittees.

FRA is also working with the Pew Center on the States in support of the Military and Overseas Citizen Voting Project, which addresses the complex process facing military and overseas citizens attempting to register and cast ballots in U.S. elections. The Association participated in the recent "Democracy at a Distance" Summit on Capitol Hill that focused on making it easier for military and overseas voters to cast their votes. NED Joe Barnes moderated a discussion panel on potential federal legislative strategies to address the challenges faced by military and overseas voters.

At the summit, the Pew Center on the States and the Overseas Vote Foundation launched a new online tool that allows military voters to complete the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) more easily and with fewer errors. This online tool, available at www.overseasvotefoundation.org, can be used by overseas voters who have requested an absentee ballot from election officials but have not yet received it.

VA Clarifies Voter Registration Regulations

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clarified its policy on assisting veterans' voter registration activities, with particular focus on inpatients and residents of VA community living centers, and patients with limited access to community voter registration resources. The VA will allow state and local election officials and non-partisan groups into its hospitals and outpatient clinics to assist VA officials in registering voters. Such assistance, however, must be coordinated by those facilities in order to avoid disruptions to patient care.

The policy requires that information about the right of VA patients to register and vote, and other patients' rights, be posted in every VA hospital, and that all patients be provided a copy of these rights when they are admitted to a VA facility. Each hospital is also required to publish a written policy on voter assistance, allowing patients to leave the hospital to register and vote, subject to the opinions of their health care providers. Patients unable to leave the facility must be assisted to register and vote by absentee ballot.

2009 COLA Increase

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the official 2009 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase is 5.8 percent, payable in January, and is applicable to military retired pay, VA benefits for disabled veterans, survivor annuities, and Social Security benefits for next year. This is the largest increase since 1982 and is significantly larger than last year's 2.3-percent COLA increase and this year's 3.9-percent pay increase for active duty personnel.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to calculate this annual COLA and is based on the cost of a "basket of goods" for the average American during the period from 1 October to 30 September of each year. Components in the "basket" include gasoline, electricity, food, housing, transportation, and medical care. When the CPI and associated COLA rates go up, it is an indication that consumers have been paying more for the same amount of goods and services.

New Benefits Take Effect

The "Paid-Up SBP" (Survivor Benefit Plan) law took effect 1 October 2008 for retirees who are at least 70 years old and have paid SBP premiums for at least 30 years (360 months). Retirees who meet these criteria will no longer have SBP premiums deducted from their retired pay, which will be reflected in November 2008 pay statements. According to the Defense Financing and Accounting Service (DFAS), premiums will stop automatically when a participating retiree meets both the age and payment criteria.

The Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) phase-in period was eliminated for retirees rated less-than-100-percent disabled, but receiving compensation at the 100-percent rate based on Individual Unemployability (IU). This change also became effective on 1 October 2008 and will be reflected in November 2008 pay statements. The CRDP improvements are retroactive to 1 January 2005, and any authorized retroactive payments will be sent separately as audits of individual retiree accounts are completed by DFAS.

These initiatives were strongly supported by FRA and the later was addressed as part of the FY2008 Defense Authorization Act.

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.



MISSION FIRST, SAILORS ALWAYS

Vice Admiral Mark E. Ferguson III, Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP), was the keynote speaker at the joint opening ceremonies to kick off the FRA and LA FRA conventions. He thanked shipmates for their legacy of service, both in the military and in FRA, and expressed his appreciation for FRA's advocacy on behalf of military personnel and their families.

Ferguson provided an update on the Navy's personnel programs, including recruiting and retention statistics. "Nearly 40,000 exceptionally qualified" Sailors have taken the oath in Great Lakes so far this year and Navy retention rates began to increase in June and July, which Ferguson credits to a more focused workforce with a strong commitment to the Navy's core values. He referenced the Navy's status as a "Top 50 employer," which is evidence of the service's emphasis on deckplate leadership and its investment in people.

CNP Ferguson also spoke about the Navy's role in Iraq and Afghanistan, commending the nearly 70,000 Sailors who have been deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF). Nearly half of the Navy fleet and over 14,000 Sailors on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti and the Horn of Africa are deployed on any given day, with Reserve component personnel fully integrated with the active duty force.

He also referenced three "tectonic shifts in the country" that affect the Navy's personnel structure. The first is a generational value shift in today's Navy. More than 43 percent are considered Millennials (born between 1980 and 2000), which Ferguson believes will be the "next great generation — a demographic segment that is optimistic, close to their parents, interdependent and feels a sense of connection to a cause greater than themselves." This shift impacts the way the Navy markets itself and requires the service to provide a life/work balance and the flexibility to offer up to a two-year sabbatical for active duty personnel.

The second demographic shift is the increased role of women in today's military. In 2008, 18 percent of newly-commissioned ensigns were female, and 28 percent of ROTC and 21 percent of Naval Academy commissions were awarded to women. "This is a talent base we cannot ignore" and impacts leave policy for births and adoptions, as well as the requirement for expanded child care options.

Diversity was the third shift that impacts the future of the Navy. Women and minorities make up nearly 70 percent of today's Navy.

Ferguson also thanked FRA for its important work to ensure Congress honors its commitment to military personnel. "Because you know the cost of freedom, because you understand how important it is to invest in a strong military force and its people and its families that can sustain the peace and win a war, your service continues today. [You are] the voice for our Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen working with Congress, the Department of Defense and other departments and agencies to improve that quality of service, the benefits, and that covenant that we have with those young people that serve and have taken your place in the ranks of the military."

He assured shipmates that the Navy is getting stronger and better each day and thanked the Association for echoing the message on his challenge coin: Mission First, Sailors Always.

DELEGATES DEBATE, DELIBERATE AND DELIVER DECISIONS

During FRA's 81st National Convention in Branson, Mo., delegates voted on a number of key initiatives that impact shipmates and the operation of the Association:

DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2009

Delegates voted to increase annual membership dues to \$30 per year. New members may enjoy a 20-percent discount by paying \$48 for a two-year membership, with an annual renewal rate of \$30 thereafter. Renewing and reinstated members will receive a five-percent discount for a two-year (\$57) or a three-year (\$85.50) term. Those who are reinstated or renew for a five-year term will receive a 10-percent discount (\$135) on the total dues amount. A discount of six-percent (\$28.20 per year, \$2.35 per month) will apply to those who pay by allotment.

Budget and Finance Committee Votes to Increase *FRA Today* Subscription Rates

At the Budget and Finance Committee meeting in August, the committee discussed the current *FRA Today* subscription rates and the significant increased cost of printing and mailing since the last rate adjustment. In accordance with the C&BL Article 10, Section 1002, the Committee unanimously voted to increase the non-member subscription rates as follows:

- Non-members — \$35. (This group includes, for example: Individuals who are not members but are interested in *FRA Today*, foreign governments, libraries, subscription services, etc.)
- Non-widow members of the LA FRA - \$10
- Widows of deceased Shipmates - \$7
- Widows of FRA life members will continue to receive *FRA Today* at no cost.

The effective date is 1 Jan. 2009.

continued on page 18



Photo by: Chris Slawinski

FRA Past National Presidents

First row left to right: PNP Thomas A. Heaney; PNP William E. Combs; PNP Daniel L. Spalding; PNP Robert L. Bastian; PNP George W. Brown; PNP Robert G. Beese; and PNP Joseph L. Maez. Second row left to right: PNP Richard B. Smith; PNP Thomas L. Leisher; PNP Eugene Smith; PNP J.C. "Jim" Eblen; PNP Edgar M. Zerr; JrPNP Jerry L. Sweeney; and PNP George P. Hyland.



Membership & Retention

FRA'S 81ST NATIONAL CONVENTION in Branson, Mo., was a great success and included the annual meeting of the Association's National Committee on Membership & Retention. Although the committee meets every other month via teleconference to keep abreast of pertinent issues, the convention gathering allows committee members to meet face-to-face as they discuss matters relating to membership: recruiting, retention, outreach, awareness and awards.

Recruiting new members is obviously important to the future of the FRA. By promoting the benefits of membership, you can demonstrate the value of joining the Association. The value proposition will be different for each individual, so it's helpful to listen to prospective members and learn what's important to them. Are they interested in the fellowship and camaraderie of fellow shipmates? Are they looking for ways to be involved in community service projects? Do they have a spouse, children or grandchildren who might benefit from FRA's scholarship program? Are they aware of FRA's outstanding legislative advocacy efforts for active duty, reserve, retired and veteran members of the Sea Services? The committee discussed a variety of way in which shipmates can bring these important messages to prospective members, including outreach events like Navy Fleet Week, Active Duty or Retiree Appreciation Days, and seminars for personnel transitioning to the civilian world such as Transitional Assistance Programs (TAP).

Retention is a challenge for some branches. The committee discussed the "Bring 'Em Back" call program, which is a simple and useful way to connect with branch members whose memberships are about to expire. People are more inclined to stay active if they

hear directly that their participation is valued. The call program used at National Headquarters has been very successful in retaining Members-at-Large, with a 32-percent renewal rate in July 2008, for example. The committee recommends that branches set up a local call program to encourage members to keep their memberships up to date. A sample script is available and I encourage interested branches to contact me if they need assistance in setting up a "Bring 'Em Back" program.

Outreach is an awesome way to get the attention of prospective members. The committee discussed how well this concept works if members get involved. For example, Cheyenne (Wyo.) Branch 59 participated in their city's Frontier Days, which honored active duty Sailors. Branch members marched in parades, assisted with serving food to crew members from the USS Cheyenne (SSN-773) and USS Wyoming (SSBN-742), and escorted them to the local VA Medical Center Nursing Home so they could interact with senior veterans being treated there. Outreach opportunities such as this have led Branch 59 to have the highest percentage recruiting gain (15.56 percent) in the Association and earned them the Abraham M.



NP Beaudreaux awards the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award to Charles Goodman II, Branch 276.



Penny Collins

Rosenberg Membership Trophy at national convention. During the past membership year (1 April 2007 through 31 March 2008), the branch recruited 14 new or reinstated members. Congratulations to Branch 59!

Additional awards were presented during convention to recognize other branches and individuals who go above and beyond in promoting the FRA. It's a very positive experience for committee members to acknowledge excellence in recruiting, retention, outreach and membership development, including nominees for the FRA 100% Award, Charles E. Lofgren Award for Branches and Individuals and the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award for an individual who promotes membership.

The FRA 100% Award for recruiting gains was presented to 45 branches and one branch in each of the five groups received the Charles E. Lofgren Award for their outstanding recruiting efforts. Additionally, five shipmates received the Charles E. Lofgren Award for their individual recruiting initiatives. (See a list of all the winners on page 32.)

Special congratulations go to Shipmates Frank Misiura of Branch 103 (Yokosuka, Japan) and Charles Goodman II of Branch 276 (Omaha, Neb.) Misiura was named overall top recruiter for his work to recruit and/or reinstate 46 FRA members during the past membership year. Goodman received the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award, which is given to the shipmate who most effectively promotes membership development within his branch. Congratulations to all of our awardees.

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



WHEN IT COMES TO SERVICE,
WE HAVE EXCEPTIONAL

Role Models.

From enrollment in TRICARE, to keeping on top of claims and benefits updates, to getting 'Quick Alert' e-mail authorizations and referrals, West Region beneficiaries can manage their family's health care fast and easy with the click of a mouse.



Register today at www.triwest.com
On Point. On Call. On Line.

Providing access to quality health care for 2.7 million members of America's military family in the 21-State TRICARE West Region. 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378) or www.triwest.com
To join our TriWest team, view current job opportunities at www.triwest.com/jobs.

A SALUTE



www.VeteranCaskets.com



www.bergmanlegal.com



www.geico.com



UNITED CONCORDIA

www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com

MARSH

Affinity Group Services
a service of Seabury & Smith

www.frainsure.com

THANK YOU

*... to the dedicated men and women
of the United States Marine Corps
on their 233rd birthday.*



www.TriWest.com



www.express-scripts.com



www.healthnet.com



www.usfamilyhealthplan.org



www.wpsic.com



for making our nation a safer place.



DELEGATES DEBATE, DELIBERATE AND DELIVER DECISIONS

continued from page 13

CHANGES IN 85/25 MEMBERSHIPS

Prior to Convention, shipmates who reached the age of 85 and had maintained at least 25 years of continuous FRA membership were no longer required to pay membership dues. Convention delegates approved a change to Article 4, Section 401(m) of the Constitution and ByLaws (C&BL) that now authorizes the dues waiver only for shipmates who are 85 years old with 40 years of continuous membership. The change took effect at the close of Convention, but those who received a membership card indicating their 85/25 status will be grandfathered and will not be required to pay dues.

NO CHANGE IN REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

A resolution to restructure FRA's nine regions was ruled out of order and was not debated by delegates. As a result, the Association's regional structure (according to C&BL Article 11, Section 1101) remains unchanged.

FRA ESTABLISHES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Delegates approved the establishment of a 501(c)3 Education Foundation to administer the Association's scholarship program. The foundation will provide an avenue for shipmates and others to make tax-free donations to the scholarship program. As a 501(c)3 organization, the foundation will also be eligible to participate in the government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).



RITUALS ARE GUIDELINES

Eight resolutions were considered to amend FRA rituals. Because the FRA Rituals manual states that "individual branches may modify these Rituals to conform with local conditions," delegates voted against any formal changes.

SPECIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE FOR 2010

As there were no submitted bids for hosting the 2010 National Convention, a Special National Convention Committee was approved by delegates. Committee members include: JrPRPSE Roger Mitchell, JrPRPNEng William Waite, PRPSW Vic Miranda, PRPSW James Fox, LA FRA PNP Betty De Cleene, LA FRA JrPNP Gail Doloway, and LA FRA RPSC Gini Larson.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary memberships were awarded to the following: Ed Young, sponsored by Low Country Branch 269; Larry Poch, sponsored by Cheyenne Branch 59; Capt. Robert D. Watts, USN (Ret.), sponsored by Mid-Hudson Branch 229; and Frank Bertolino, sponsored by Green Valley Branch 77.



Special thank you to PRPEC Paul Gunther for providing many pictures seen in this publication. To view all Convention shots taken by DMC Eileen Murphy in Branson, please visit www.flickr.com/hqfira.

CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

NED Barnes moderated a panel which included MCPON Duane Bushey, USN, (Ret.), SMMC Gene Overstreet, USMC (Ret.), MCPOCG Rick Trent, USCG (Ret.) and MCPO Mike Baker, USN (Ret.). Barnes provided an overview of membership challenges for FRA and other associations, staff goals and statistics specific to FRA. The panel followed with observations and insights about FRA. The panel reminded audience members that as the association membership average age rises, it is increasingly important to recruit younger shipmates to continue the vital work of the association. With that, they paid special attention to communicating with and relating to the active duty audience, understanding their needs and experiences are significantly different from those of previous generations. The panel took questions from audience members as well. The second half of the session was an open discussion for shipmates to share best-practices from their recruiting efforts and capture key points for further discussion in the coming year. These points shared by shipmates in attendance were: Identify FRA's unique value proposition for target audiences: veterans, retirees, active duty, Reserve and family members; Make the association more relevant to target groups; Enhance communications and awareness of the association; Maximize opportunities – promoting association programs to current and prospective members.

MOTIVATING OTHERS TO ACT

SMMC Gene Overstreet also facilitated a motivational workshop focused on FRA's recruiting and retention efforts. No stranger to motivating others, Overstreet outlined the need to help prospective members understand the value of FRA membership. He suggested

using *FRA Today* as a key tool in explaining the Association's legislative and community outreach efforts, and encouraged shipmates to listen more closely to learn what's important to potential members. He challenged shipmates to recruit and train their replacements through strong leadership and personal ownership of the Association.

WELLNESS AND NUTRITION

Maj. Karen Fauber, USAR, spoke to shipmates about the importance of a healthy diet in maintaining lifelong wellness. A licensed dietician for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), Fauber advised shipmates and ladies to use the nutritional information on packaging labels to guide their grocery purchases. She advised shopping the outside aisles in the grocery store (which traditionally include fresh produce, meats, seafood and dairy items) to create more healthful meals. Her presentation included a video about nutrition for diabetes patients, but added that many of the video's recommendations also apply to the population at large.

Katy Venskus, director of operations for the Wisconsin Partnership to Fight Chronic Diseases, encouraged attendees to take preventative measures to improve their overall health and that of their families. Preventative care can provide not only a higher quality of life, but can also help reduce personal costs and alleviate the strain on America's healthcare system. The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease advocates changing the healthcare system, too, by offering expanded access to dietitians and other providers that can help patients prevent more invasive, more expensive procedures like surgery and rehabilitation services. Improving healthcare is an economic issue and, although individuals can do little to make healthcare cheaper, they can make themselves healthier.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES UPDATE

NED Joe Barnes, Assistant Director of Legislative Programs Ed Dockery, National Veterans Service Officer Chris Slawinski, Outreach Manager Bob Washington, and Shipmate Dennis Egge facilitated a briefing on FRA's current advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. Key initiatives being considered by Congress were highlighted, including authorization and appropriations bill for the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security. Shipmate Egge (Honolulu Branch 46) provided an overview of the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA), a poorly-written law that often allows military retired pay to be unfairly divided in divorce proceedings.



VA PROGRAMS

Kevin Secor, special assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Chris Slawinski, FRA's National Veterans Service Officer (VSO), gave an overview of the VA system that includes the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemeteries Administration (NCA). Secor discussed the new Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit, explaining that implementation is being outsourced because VA does not have the technical expertise to do so. Technology will also help VBA and VHA communicate more effectively to create better, faster results, and two new pilot programs are being implemented to expedite claims processing. An additional 3,100 adjusters are being hired to help reduce the 860,000 backlogged

continued on page 24





National President Donald Mucheck

Convention delegates elected Donald Mucheck for the office of FRA’s National President for 2008-2009.

Mucheck, a member of Branch 50 (Charleston, S.C.), has been a continuous member of FRA for more than 30 years. He has served as Regional Vice President (1986–1987), Regional President (1987–1988), and National Vice President (2007-2008). Additionally, he’s held every elected office in Branch 50, serving as Vice President for three terms, President for six terms, five terms as Secretary-Treasurer, and a member of the Board of Directors for 19 years. He has been directly responsible for numerous awards to his branch on the regional and national level, and has received several coveted organizational and civic awards for his individual efforts.

On the national level, Mucheck has chaired the Association’s Future Planning and Americanism-Patriotism Committees. He’s been an advisor to the Constitution and Bylaws; Membership and Retention; Time and Place; Employees Pension; and Public Relations Committees, as well as the Special National Committee on Family Resource Advisors. Mucheck also served as an advisor to the Budget and Finance and the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committees.

Mucheck enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1957 and, following assignment to the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard, Washington, D.C., and completion of an associate’s degree in administration from West Liberty State University (W.Va.), he enlisted in the regular Navy in 1961. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer in 1977 and retired in 1986 as a Lieutenant Law Specialist. His assignments include duty aboard USS Begor, USS Inchon, and USS Canopus, and tours in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Great Lakes, Ill.; Charleston, S.C.; Guam and Vietnam.



National Vice President Gary Blackburn

Shipmate Gary Blackburn was elected National Vice President by delegates at FRA’s 81st National Convention.

Blackburn, a member of FRA Branch 8 (Vallejo, Calif.), is a Life Member of the Association. During his more than 40 years as an FRA Shipmate, he has served as West Coast Regional Vice President (2001-2002), Regional President (2002-2003), Regional Secretary (2005-2008) and has held a variety of leadership positions in his branch. He’s served as Branch Secretary for more than 10 terms, and also served as Branch Vice President and Branch President. At the national level, he has served terms on FRA’s National Committee on Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation.

Blackburn enlisted in the Navy in 1960 and is a Vietnam veteran. He retired as a First Class Petty Officer in 1978, having served as a corpsman at U.S. Naval Hospitals at Whidbey Island and Bremerton, Wash., and Yokosuka, Japan. His Navy career also includes assignments at Point Magu, Calif., aboard USS Washoe County, and service with Marine units at Camp Hanson, Okinawa, and Camp Pendleton, Calif.

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS



New England:
Paul F. Loveless, Jr.
Pinetree Branch 156



Northeast:
James E. Brown
Staten Island Branch 226



East Coast:
Ray E. Santee
Virginia Beach
Branch 166



Jr. Past National President:
Lawrence J. Beaudreaux
Branch 275



National Executive Director:
Joseph L. Barnes, Branch 181



Southeast:
John E. Sutton
Mayport Branch 290



North Central:
Robert A. Melson
USS Indianapolis
Memorial Branch 130



South Central:
Donald Larson
Corpus Christi Branch 94



Finance Officer:
Paul Rigby



Southwest:
Charles F. Tompkins
James Hunter Branch 47



West Coast:
Nathan "Joe" Nash
Silver Dollar Branch 192



Northwest:
Donald L. Bordwell
Dungeness Branch 174



National Parliamentarian:
PNP Robert G. Beese
Branch 175



National Chaplain:
Tom Whitaker, Branch 147

Were you or a loved one injured by
MESOTHELIOMA?




Mesothelioma has been conclusively linked with exposure to asbestos and asbestos-containing products. Millions of hardworking **men and women in the military** that worked with and around asbestos and asbestos-containing products may be affected.

If you or someone you know have been diagnosed with mesothelioma or lung cancer, you may be able to file a legal claim against the asbestos industry and collect significant financial compensation. **Call the lawyers at James Rolshouse & Associates toll free at 1-888-303-MESO.**

Lawyers at Rolshouse & Associates are licensed to practice law in Minnesota with principal offices in Burnsville, MN and associate with experienced lawyers throughout the U.S.

James Rolshouse & Associates
Personal Injury Attorneys


SFC James Rolshouse
proudly served OIF 06-08

DON'T DELAY, CALL NOW 1-888-303-MESO

Housing • Employment • Group Support • Treatment • Physical Rehabilitation • Counseling

Join Millions of Americans in Supporting our Military
www.SOLDIERSUPPORTFOUNDATION.com

Operators are standing by, so make a donation today!

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-598-0234



CONVENTION SPEAKER RECAP



SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERSHIP FORUM

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joseph Campa, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SMMC) Carlton Kent, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG) Skip Bowen led a discussion forum about the status and future of their respective services.

MCPON Campa credited the Navy's success to the commitment of today's Sailors and the care and concern of citizens and organizations like FRA. He highlighted the Navy's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, praising Sailors who are "working side-by-side with soldiers, often leading the way," supporting convoys, finding improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and aiding wounded warriors. He also spoke of the importance of caring for those who are wounded in service to our nation, including those whose wounds are not obvious at first glance. "These service members met their full responsibility to our country. We must meet our full responsibility to them," said Campa.

SMMC Kent echoed the need to care for wounded warriors, and praised the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior Regiment for its superb efforts. The Commandant's policy is to retain all Marines who wish to stay in service, some are even going back to combat. "These Marines never complain, they only want to get back to their units," he said, following a moving story of a Marine who had lost both his legs in combat. He asked FRA to continue its efforts to ensure adequate funding to care for these heroes as well as maintain the authorized increase in the Corps' personnel endstrength.

MCPOCG Bowen thanked FRA for its support of the Coast Guard and its training and recognition programs. He also outlined his service's reorganization and Deepwater recapitalization efforts, including a pilot program to admit select Coast Guard personnel to the Navy's elite Special Forces program. Bowen also thanked FRA for its legislative advocacy to improve healthcare, housing, childcare and other quality-of-life programs for Coast Guard personnel and their families.

During the Question-and-Answer portion of the forum, the E-10s were asked to discuss their service's personnel challenges. MCPON Campa spoke about the Navy's manning strain resulting in the additional requirements for IAs (individual augmentees) for OIF and OEF missions. "We've developed technology to replace manpower, but the technology has not caught up to the Navy's manpower reductions," he said. SMMC Kent referenced the requirement to balance OIF and OEF requirements, the need to provide additional barracks and work areas to accommodate the Corps' manpower growth, and the challenge of healthcare access as his service's most significant personnel challenges. MCPOCG Bowen also expressed concern about healthcare access, particularly for USCG personnel stationed in remote, high-cost areas.

All three senior enlisted leaders thanked FRA for raising awareness of their services' need for adequate funding and also for the Association's role in maintaining and preserving the services' traditions and values.

FORCM Wright

FORCM (FMF) Ronney Wright, Navy Reserve Force, praised the work of Reserve Component personnel and their outstanding performance in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Readiness and mission focus are key to force relevance, and the Navy Reserve is restructuring itself to most effectively execute our nation's War on Terror. Many active duty Sailors are transitioning to the Reserves, which allows the Navy to maintain valuable skills. Wright urged shipmates to assist Reservist who may need help, particularly those who are Individual Augmentees (IAs), by guiding them to Military OneSource or the Navy Safe Harbor program.



MCPO Cowan

MCPO Thomas Cowan, USCG Reserve Command Master Chief for Maintenance Logistic Command Pacific, spoke about the wide array of skills that Reserve personnel bring to the Coast Guard's total force and the value of their military experience in the civilian workplace. Cowan also thanked FRA for its work to improve the quality of life for all military personnel and their families, particularly the new GI Bill and other legislation that positively impacts the Reserve community.





FORCM Penton

FORCM (SW/AW) Chris Penton, Force Master Chief for Navy Recruiting Command, spoke about Navy Recruiting Command's mission to motivate, man, train and equip the recruiting force. He outlined the command structure and praised recruiters for their important and successful efforts to fill Navy billets without lowering standards. Approximately 72 percent of America's youth are not qualified to join the Navy and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan also presents a challenge for recruiters. Penton acknowledged a reduction in "influencers" who might encourage their sons and daughters to join the military, and reminded shipmates that they, too, are recruiters.

CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

continued from page 19

claims for benefits. Efforts to diagnose and treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and provide seamless transition from DoD to the VA healthcare system were also discussed. Secor also highlighted the VA's recent determination that amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a degenerative nerve disease, is now considered a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military. (See page 10 for more details.)

IMIS AND BRANCH ADMIN BASICS

Managing shipmate and branch membership data was the focus of a workshop presented by Eileen Murphy, FRA's Director of Marketing and Communications. She demonstrated the process of logging into FRA's website (www.fra.org) to update personal information, and also explained how branch secretaries and regional officers can review branch rosters, download membership reports, request recruiting materials and perform other basic administrative functions. The workshop also provided an opportunity for shipmates to ask specific questions about their personal and/or branch administrative requirements.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Dick Erickson facilitated a workshop on the Library of Congress' efforts to preserve oral histories of war-era veterans through the Veterans History Project (VHP). Erickson, chairman of the Branson Veterans History Project (VHP) for the Branson Veterans Task Force, also interviewed and recorded the stories

of numerous FRA delegates during the course of convention week. In addition to collecting veterans' recollections, the VHP also invites those who supported war efforts in a civilian capacity to share their stories as well. The interviews are recorded and/or videotaped, and many VHP offices offer veterans the opportunity to purchase a CD of their interview for a nominal charge. "Every veteran has a unique perspective on their wartime service," explained Erickson, "and it's important to preserve their memories."



KEN DUCTOR

Ken Ductor, Veteran and Charitable Organization Director for the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR), provided an overview of the regiment's mission. Although often confused with the Wounded Warrior Project, the WWR is an official USMC regiment tasked with helping wounded, ill and injured Marines, Sailors and their families with non-medical needs as they recover and rehabilitate. Ductor invited shipmates to join the WWR team by offering their time and energy to WWR initiatives in their areas that assist these American heroes.

DISCOVERED: THREE KINGS' SILVER COIN FROM THE TIME OF JESUS' BIRTH



Certified to be
Authentic and
Dated between
35 BC to 5 AD

Imagine holding in the palm of your hand an ancient silver coin minted by one of the three kings who sent their emissaries to witness the birth of the baby Jesus. Imagine owning a coin that was touched by the people who walked among Jesus during his years on earth. Today, through an exclusive release by GovMint.com you can own an authentic silver Drachma, saved from destruction and preserved for over 2,000 years — just in time to celebrate Christ's birth!

MIRACULOUS FIND GARNERS WORLDWIDE ATTENTION

Finding an ancient Silver Drachma coin anywhere in the world is a noteworthy event. Finding one issued by one of the "Three Kings" of the Bible, a coin produced by the King of Persia from 35 BC to 5 AD and used throughout the life of Jesus Christ, is cause for true excitement. Intricately designed, it is a miniature work of art. In ancient times the Silver Drachma was struck by hand, one at a time, so no two are exactly alike. This was a coin that could have easily been used to purchase the gifts presented to the Christ Child and has been historically proven to have circulated in Jesus' lifetime.

**A GIFT THAT
WILL
BE TREASURED!**

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST DRACHMA

The Silver Drachma was a coin well known to Jesus and his followers. In one of his parables Jesus says, "Or what woman, having ten drachmas, if she loses one, does not light a candle and sweep the house and look diligently till she finds it? And after she has found it, she calls in her friends and says, Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma that I lost" (Luke 15:8-9).

A PRECIOUS CHRISTMAS GIFT

Your Silver "Kings" Drachma from the time of Christ will arrive housed in a deluxe presentation album together with historical information detailing this coin's amazing journey. A signed Certificate of Authenticity guarantees the coin is from the time of Christ and is sure to be cherished by friends and family.

VERY LIMITED AT THIS LOW PRICE —

This special offer of Ancient Silver Drachmas from the time of Christ is made possible by a recent discovery. The quantity is strictly limited and once they are gone, there is no telling when, or if, any more will ever be found. This coin has sold nationally for \$135, but while our supply lasts you can own this Ancient Silver "Three Kings" Drachma for just \$49.95. Additional savings are available for multiple coin orders (see details).

SPECIFICATIONS

YEARS OF ISSUE: 35 BC — 5 AD
COMPOSITION: SILVER
DESIGN: KING AZES II ON HORSEBACK
WEIGHT: 2 GRAMS (APPROX.)
DIAMETER: 15 MM

MONEY-BACK SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

Purchase your Ancient Silver "King's" Drachma for a full month risk-free. You must be 100% satisfied or simply return it within 30 days via insured mail for a prompt refund of the purchase price.

Ancient Silver "King's" Drachma Coin **Just \$49.95** each *plus S&H*

BUY MORE AND SAVE

FREE ancient Biblical bronze coin from the Holy Land with any order of 3 or more Drachmas!

THREE Ancient Silver "King's" Drachma Coins
Just \$44.95 each *plus S&H* **Save \$5** per coin!

FIVE or MORE Ancient Silver "King's" Drachma Coins
Just \$39.95 each *plus S&H* **Save \$10** per coin!

Toll-Free 24 hours a day 1-888-870-8548

Promotional Code ASD124
Please mention this code when you call.

We can also accept your check by phone. To order by mail call for details.



GovMINT.COM
YOUR ONE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. ASD124, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.govmint.com

Note: Quantity strictly limited at this price. Orders filled on a first-come, first-served basis. This offer is subject to change without prior notice. Sold out orders will be promptly refunded.



Nicholas Bruyer
LM 4489



Member Better Business Bureau

© GovMint.com, 2008



PHOTOS FROM CONVENTION





THE USS WAYNE E. Meyer (DDG-108) was christened on 18 October 2008, making it the Navy's newest Arleigh-Burke class destroyer. The 509.5-foot ship was named after the man who is known as the Father of Aegis, a highly advanced integrated combat system that is used on all Arleigh-Burke class destroyers and Ticonderoga class cruisers. Admiral and Mrs. Meyer were on-hand for the christening in Bath, Maine.

Destroyers are often called the "Greyhounds of the Sea" for their speed and maneuverability, as well as their endurance capabilities. They are multi-mission warships with both offensive and defensive capability and can work independently or as escorts for larger vessels in a fleet, convoy or battle group. Destroyers

are also affectionately called "tin cans," referring to the early days when the vessels had little protective armor and relied solely on their speed and maneuverability.

From the first U.S. destroyer commissioned in 1902 to the famous ships of World War II to the *Spruance*-class to today's *Arleigh Burke*-class, the U.S. Navy's destroyers continue to evolve. The Aegis Combat System (ACS) is an advanced command and control and weapon control system that uses powerful computers and radars to track and destroy enemy targets. It is the world's most advanced naval surface ship combat system and the first fully integrated combat system built to defend against air, surface, and subsurface threats.



Rear Adm. Wayne E. Meyer at the christening of the newest Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108).

Every shipmate has a story to tell. If you'd like to share your destroyer experiences, visit www.fra.org/history to post your story in the History and Heritage Community.



LESS THAN \$1.20 PER CIGAR

Save 67% **25 Premium Handmade Cigars**
Special Introductory Offer – Compare at ~~\$90~~
ONLY \$29.95



FREE Aluminum Case

25 personal invitations for you to compare my custom handmade cigars, with the nifty up-market brands you are smoking now. With a fantastic variety of shapes, sizes and tobacco, this amazing collection of premium cigars has an unbelievable introductory price of less than \$1.20 per cigar. Plus receive this FREE aluminum travel case!

For over 90 years Thompson Cigar has been offering cigar aficionados premium quality, handmade cigars at incredibly low prices. Cigars aren't just our business; they've been our passion for almost a century!

Don't miss this opportunity to indulge in 25 incredible smokes. Call now or visit us online for this amazing low price. Supplies are limited, so order yours today!

www.thompsoncigar.com

Type T8071 in our home page search bar and click GO, or call.....

1-800-349-8580

Get your Powerhouse 25 Sampler now!

25 top-notch brands for \$29.95 (#922169).

Add \$4.95 shipping & handling. (All shipments to AK, HI, Guam, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico must go priority mail - add an additional \$10.00. Florida residents add 6% sales tax + appropriate county tax). Remittance of any taxes on orders shipped to a location outside of Florida is the responsibility of the purchaser. In the event we are out of a Premium brand, Thompson reserves the right to substitute another premium brand cigar, of equal or greater value. All written orders MUST include your signature and date of birth. Limit one per customer.

Dept. T8071
Product #922169

©2008 Thompson Cigar Co.

America's Oldest Mail Order Cigar Company, Est 1915
 P.O. Box 31274 • Tampa, FL 33631-3274 • Fax: 213-452-6599

OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/09 • NOT AVAILABLE TO MINORS AND GOOD ONLY IN THE USA



Truly Unique



Time travel at the speed of a 1935 Speedster?

The 1930s brought unprecedented innovation in machine-age technology and materials. Industrial designers from the auto industry translated the principals of aerodynamics and streamlining into everyday objects like radios and toasters. It was also a decade when an unequalled variety of watch cases and movements came into being. In lieu of hands to tell time, one such complication, called a jumping mechanism, utilized numerals on a disc viewed through a window. With its striking resemblance to the dashboard gauges and radio dials of the decade, the jump hour watch was indeed "in tune" with the times!

The Stauer 1930s Dashtronic deftly blends the modern functionality of a 21-jewel automatic movement and 3-ATM water resistance with the distinctive, retro look of a jumping display (not an



True to Machine Art esthetics, the sleek brushed stainless steel case is clear on the back, allowing a peek at the inner workings.

actual jumping complication). The stainless steel 1 1/2" case is complemented with a black alligator-embossed leather band. The band is 9 1/2" long and will fit a 7-8 1/2" diameter wrist.

Try the Stauer 1930 Dashtronic Watch for 30 days and if you are not receiving compliments, please return the watch for a

full refund of the purchase price. If you have an appreciation for classic design with precision accuracy, the 1930s Dashtronic Watch is built for you. This watch is a limited edition, so please act quickly. Our last two limited edition watches are totally sold out!

Not Available in Stores

Stauer 1930s Dashtronic Watch **\$99 +S&H or 3 easy credit card payments of \$33 +S&H**

Call now to take advantage of this limited offer.

1-800-859-1602

Promotional Code DRW137-02
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer 14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. DRW137-02
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Acton, William, CDR USN	042	Gibson, Crowder G., MCPO USN	346
Adamos, Felicisimo, MS1	MAL	Glunt, E. M., PO2 USNR	MAL
Adinolfi, John J., ENC	022	Gold, Leon, Jr., PRC	124
Allen, Howard W., CWO4 USN	109	Gottlieb, Anthony, MRCS	276
Andersen, Thomas G., HMCS	059	Gray, J. T., PO1 USN	086
		Guertin, Lawrence, USN RET	060
Barbarin, Lucien C., Jr., DM1	092	Gundlach, George C., Jr., USN RET	027
Bard, Larry R., Sr., CWO2 USN	MAL	Guthrie, Joe T., ALC	041
Baudouin, Oliver P., SGTMAJ	162		
Becker, James J., POCS	346	Haglund, Raymond V., ADRC	MAL
Berard, Ralph W., BMC	102	Hall, Alfred C., MMC	280
Bier, Janet T., PO1 USN	102	Hall, Carmillis, UT1	177
Block, Albert B., RMC	201	Hans, Raymond C., GMGC	MAL
Bobbitt, Robert M., CPO USN	MAL	Hare, Edwin W., RMC	346
Boydos, Joseph Edward, EWCM(SW)	259	Hendershot, Harold L., ADR1	369
Braman, Elvin G., ENCS(SS)	346	Herrin, Roy L., CSC	108
Branson, Harold E., AO1	126	Hieldbrant, James Elmer, RET	MAL
Briguglio, Joseph P., Sr., ADC	MAL	Hill, Benjamin F., AMCS	022
Bullock, Dale A., HMC	253	Hogancamp, Harry L., ADCS	126
		Holland, William, ASM2	282
Cachuela, Jose M., SDC	084	Hoover, Clarence P., LCDR USN	MAL
Campbell, Gerry, MSCS(SW)	259	Hyder, James L., EMCM(SS)	110
Clute, Cecil C., Jr., FTMC	374	Hymel, Clement E., ADRC	092
Cochran, Charles L., LCDR USN	MAL		
Coldwell, George F., GYSGT	MAL	Improta, Leegrand, QM1	147
Conant, Eugene W., HM1	MAL		
Corbett, Lee D., ENC	050	Jackson, William T., PCC	099
Cotter, John W., Jr., HMC	216	Jacobs, Walter H., YNC	219
Cupit, Robert H., POCS USN	096	Jagde, Robert F., EMCS	226
Cummings, Walter C., GYSGT	208	Jensen, Charles W., LTJG USN	133
Currie, Robert J., GMCS	003	Jett, Clarence E., ADR2	101
Czarnecki, Theodore L., EMCM(SS)	186	Jones, Clinton, EN1	047
		Jorgensen, Frank C., LT USN	MAL
Dambrosio, John A., MGYSGT	003	Kemp, Robert L., BUC	120
Demling, Martin H., RM1	051	Kinzel, Leroy J., HTC	010
De Rosa, Anthony, GMC	MAL	Kissee, Charles E., MSCS	298
Difatta, Sal, DC1	MAL	Kowalczyk, Paul, HTC	258
Dittrich, Frederick F., ICC	120	Kraft, Gary B., AE1	077
Donahoe, James M., HM1	175	Kramer, Fred, CPO USN	163
Driscoll, John A., PO1 USN	MAL		
Dube, Norman J., CSC	047	Lamb, Howard O., ADRC	093
Dube, Ronald P., MRC	003	Langrehr, Joseph M., BMC	060
Dunham, Robert J., BTC	163	Lantrip, Dale, GMMC	MAL
		Larotonda, Joseph, AEC	018
Eagan, Bernard E., YNC	309	Latimer, Charles L., CDR USNR	234
Edwards, Charl T., PO1 USN	MAL	Lease, Garland S., EQCM	300
Ellis, Ernest S., HMC	219	Letcher, Harold L., SK2	216
Elrod, William E., ADR1	MAL	Levell, Simon V., ADRC	161
		Lightfoot, Paul E., CS1	040
Federice, John J., AMCS	023	Lindholm, Arthur A., BTC	309
Fischer, William L., BMC	046	Lowans, Charles R., RMCS	106
Flemming, Billy J., CSC	060	Lund, Roger C., MGYSGT	MAL
Foss, Robert R., HMC	126		
Fuller, Omer D., CTC	313	Marlatt, Larry B., SCPO USN	104
		Marz, Thomas G., PO1 USN	MAL
Garrasi, Gabriel E., CPO USN	MAL	Mayfield, Leelon N., PO1 USN	MAL
Garrison, Stoy E., CSC	007	McAllister, Charles J., MSGT	MAL



NAME	BRANCH
McFarland, Charles T., SDCS	MAL
McGraw, Donald S., SMC	MAL
McKee, Donald R., PO1 USN	MAL
McKibben, Bobby G., ATC	256
Meacham, John, USN RET	MAL
Melton, Marvin G., GMGC	110
Miller, Bobby R., ADR1	197
Moody, Paul L., CWO4 USN	311
Mote, Monroe M., DTC	MAL
Myers, Bert A., Jr., BTCS	MAL
Niedringhaus, Ned A., DCC	267
Noel, William G., QMCM	085
Norman, Harold G., SKC	223
O'Rourke, George M., CTO2	289
Owings, Harry A., MSGT	086
Oxford, Denver D., ENC	094
Patch, Arthur E., CDR USN	008
Patrick, Ray A., HMC	298
Payne, James H., Jr., SMC	MAL
Pearn, Jack, MMCS	283
Peterson, Warner E., LT USN	188
Pierce, Lyman B., SCPO USN	MAL
Pinkerton, John, EMC	060
Prejean, Lawrence, PO1 USN	MAL
Pyers, Lawrence T., RM2	MAL
Rains, Allen C., GMG1	MAL
Reis, Adam W., CWO4 USN	201
Richardson, Dale N., CWO4 USN	MAL
Rogers, Robert W., Jr., CE1	280
Ropple, Robert J., BMC	061
Rowe, Dempsey, CMC	MAL
Royal, Fitz L., Jr., GMGC	126
Ruark, Robert C., YNC	MAL
Russell, N. A., AW2	MAL
Saleh, Richard E., CDR USN	MAL
Salts, Jack L., HMCS	289
Schmidt, Jay S., PO1 USN	046
Sexton, Jack R., YN2	276
Sheets, Carl E., MM1	050
Simmons, David H., AWC	358



Tin Can Sailors — The Nat'l Assoc of Destroyer Veterans

23–27 August 2009, Portland, Maine.
Contact Terry Miller PO Box 100
Somerset MA 02726, 800-223-5535,
tcs@destroyers.org.

USS Carpenter (DD-825)

30–4 May 2008, Branson, Mo. Contact
Ed Nolan, 11187 Peachcove Ct.,
Suwanee, GA 30024, 770-476-9698 or
mared2@bellsouth.net.

USS Donner (LSD-20)

23–26 April 2009, Washington, D.C.
Contact Dennis Heimbach 33 Franklin
St., Shillington, PA 19607-2772, (610)
775-7539 or dheimb@1usa.com.


USS Richard L. Page (DEG/FFG-5)

25–28 June 2009, Waukegan, Ill.
Contact Carl Slack, (603) 986-4661 or
slack_39@yahoo.com.

Members can post reunions online at www.fra.org,
submit to reunions@fra.org or mail to: FRA Reunions,
125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

continued from page 30

NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Sinnott, Roy J., CMC	MAL	VanOverberg, Jerome A., ADR2	046
Sitten, William T., AKCS	MAL	Vidas, Edward P., ETC	117
Smith, Clifton E., MR1	MAL		
Smith, Jack L., HT1	300	Wall, John T., GMG1	096
Snider, Chester L., E01	MAL	Walls, Emory K., AO1	MAL
Spiegel, Harold A., CMSGT	267	Waycott, Vera G., USN VET	068
Stairs, Albert L., POC USN	166	Weems, Arnim, SCPO USN	MAL
Stanley, Jay B., Jr., DK1	104	Williams, Thomas J., POC USN	MAL
Staples, William, PO1 USN	MAL	Wilson, Paul, IMC	MAL
Steffens, Richard G., GYSGT	124	Wood, David, HMCS	MAL
Stone, Charles R., SKCS	334		
Stoneking, Link F., AFCM	289	York, Fred T., BM2	022
Stout, John R., HTCMT	151	Zeigler, Bradford V., YNCS	010
Stowe, Douglas W., DTC	085		
Stumph, Donald E., BMCS	365		
Sylvestre, Raymond, LT USN	335		
Thompson, Clifton G., HT1	MAL		
Thompson, Edward W., CPO USN	014		
Tiller, Cecil R., ADCS	282		
Tomaro, Anthony P., ETCS	MAL		
Tyler, Robert L., RMC	181		

Names in **red** indicate 50 year continuous members.
 indicate a Past National Officer.

SHIP & AIRCRAFT PHOTOGRAPHS
 Thousands of Ship Photos in Stock
 8x10 B&W Prints \$12.00 Free Postage
ELSILRAC ENTERPRISES
 1-800-226-0525 www.navyshipphotos.com

ATTENTION CHIEFS

A SIGNET RING ESPECIALLY FOR YOU
 Proudly wear the symbol of your achievement. This heavy **10K SOLID GOLD** signet ring with raised CPO insignia is the ideal gift for any special occasion. Finely detailed with a solid back. **FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.** \$320.00 + \$4.75 P&I. Send check, M.O., VISA, or MasterCard. Include style and size ring desired. **J.P. GORDON LTD, DEPT. NA, 781 Deer Lake Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462** or CALL **1-800-950-7464**
<http://fra.militaryjewelry.com>
 Virginia Resident add 5% sales tax

Hearing Aids ! Free Catalog !



Save Up To 70%
1-800-462-5778
Monroe Hearing
 P. O. Box A-3976 Chicago, Il. 60690

Totes, Bags Shoe Caddies & Pouches
 For Sports, Travel and Leisure
Baker Bag, LLC
 1-301-695-1404
<http://www.bakerbag.com>

AUTHORS WANTED
 Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, juvenile, religious, etc. New authors welcomed. For free 32-page illustrated guide-book **TD-69** call **1-800-821-3990** or write to **Vantage Press, 419 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016.**

INGRASSIA & SONS JEWELERS
Quality Speaks for Itself!
800-630-2965
www.BOLDMILITARYJEWELRY.com




Join now and be heard.
 1-800-FRA-1924
www.fra.org




CONVENTION AWARDS

AMERICANISM-PATRIOTISM COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bobbie Combs, Branch 316

First Place

- Group I – Branch 269
- Group II – Branch 175
- Group III – Branch 117
- Group IV – Branch 186
- Group V – Branch 11

Second Place

- Group I – Branch 99
- Group II – Branch 136
- Group III – Branch 316
- Group IV – Branch 17
- Group V – Branch 15

Third Place

- Group I – Branch 289
- Group II – Branch 261
- Group III – Branch 5
- Group IV – Branch 6
- Group V – Branch 215

The Walter "Step" Rowell Award for the 1st place overall report
Branch 117, Orlando, Fla.

The Leonard "Swede" Nelson Award for Shipmate of the Year
Ronald A. Kruse of Branch 137, Minden, Nev.

The Robert Doherty Award for Shipmate for Special Recognition
Cindy Hefty of Branch 99, Virginia Beach, Va.

The committee recommends that the theme for the 2009-2010 Americanism Essay Contest be: **"What Memorial Day Means to Me."**

HOSPITALS, WELFARE AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Charles F. Burkhardt, Jr., Branch 98

First Place

- Group I – Branch 24
- Group II – Branch 126
- Group III – Branch 156
- Group IV – Branch 298
- Group V – Branch 259

Second Place

- Group I – Branch 269
- Group II – Branch 175
- Group III – Branch 5
- Group IV – Branch 188
- Group V – Branch 59

Third Place

- Group I – Branch 46
- Group II – Branch 136
- Group III – Branch 110
- Group IV – Branch 115
- Group V – Branch 251

HW&R Shipmate of the Year
Thomas E. Elliott, Jr. of Branch 156, Brunswick, Maine.

MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION COMMITTEE

Chairman: DMD Penny Collins, Branch 24

The FRA 100% Award

Of the 271 branches, 45 (16.60%) qualified for the Award for 2007-08. Those branches qualifying with percentage recruiting gain were as follows:

GROUP I

(1 of 9 Branches 11.11%)

Goose Creek Branch 269 – 1.51%, Southeast Region

GROUP II

(2 of 22 Branches – 09.09%)

Corpus Christi Branch 94 – 5.69%, South Central Region

Bremerton Branch 29 – 0.12%, Northwest Region

GROUP III

(4 of 43 Branches – 09.30%)

Omaha Council Bluffs Branch 276 – 12.23%, North Central Region

Everett Branch 170 – 8.79%, Northwest Region

Foothills Branch 234 – 3.69%, Southeast Region

San Diego Branch 84 – 0.00%, Southwest Region

GROUP IV

(2 of 59 Branches – 03.38%)

Indianapolis Memorial Branch 130 – 5.84%, North Central Region

Mid Hudson Branch 229 – 3.39%, Northeast Region

GROUP V

(36 of 138 Branches 26.08%)

Cheyenne Branch 59 – 15.56%, Northwest Region

Lone Star Branch 11 – 12.90%, South Central Region

Indian Nations Branch 54 – 12.50%, North Central Region

Southern Luzon Branch 171 – 12.50%, Northwest Region

Comodore Perry Branch 258 – 10.00%, Northeast Region

Walhalla Branch 15 – 9.62%, Southeast Region

Fall River Branch 72 – 8.43%, New England Region

Grand Strand Branch 254 – 8.33%, Southeast Region

Batangas Branch 111 – 7.14%, Northwest Region

Ozark Branch 227 – 6.52%, South Central Region

Upper Peninsula Branch 138 – 6.25%, North Central Region

Fayetteville NC Branch 259 – 6.12%, East Coast Region

Volusia County Branch 335 – 5.56%, Southeast Region

Olongapo City Branch 74– 4.76%, Northwest Region

Sierra Tahoe Branch 137 – 4.76%, West Coast Region

Mother Lode Branch 296 – 4.65%, West Coast Region

Colorado West Branch 244 – 4.26%, West Coast Region

Green Mountain Branch 235 – 3.90%, New England Region

Wiregrass Branch 386 – 3.64%, Southeast Region

Heart of the Ozarks Branch 364 – 2.00%, North Central Region

Peoria Branch 221 – 1.61%, North Central Region

Suncoast Branch 291 – 1.23%, Southeast Region

Dungeness Branch 174 – 1.09%, Northwest Region

Monterey Peninsula Branch 178, .093%, West Coast Region

Carson Branch 302 – 0.00%, Southwest Region

Madison Branch 376 – 0.00%, North Central Region

Roughrider Branch 273 – 0.00%, North Central Region

USS Enterprise Branch 278 – 0.00%, Southeast Region

Dagupan Branch 247 – 0.00%, Northwest Region

Latte Stone Branch 73 – 0.00%, Northwest Region

Central Coast Branch 272 – 0.00%, Southwest Region

Capital Olympia Branch 191 – 0.00%, Northwest Region

Ft. Wayne Branch 348 – 0.00%, North Central Region

JJ Burke Branch 215 – 0.00%, Southeast Region

Show Me Branch 32 – 0.00%, North Central Region

Caveland Branch 206 – 0.00%, North Central Region

Charles E. Lofgren Award for Branches

Awarded to one branch in recognition of excellence in membership promotion in competition with the branches within the same membership group.

- Group I: Goose Creek Branch 269, Goose Creek, S.C. (1.51% recruiting gain)
- Group II: Corpus Christi Branch 94, Corpus Christi, Texas (5.69% recruiting gain)
- Group III: Omaha Council Bluffs Branch 276, Omaha, Neb. (12.23% recruiting gain)
- Group IV: USS Indianapolis Memorial Branch 130, Indianapolis, Ind. (5.84% recruiting gain)
- Group V: Cheyenne Branch 59, Cheyenne, Wyo. (15.56% recruiting gain)

Charles E. Lofgren Award for Individuals

Awarded to one Shipmate within each membership group who has recruited the greatest number during the preceding Membership Year.

- Group I: Michael P. Norman, Pearl Harbor-Honolulu Branch 46 (39 Members)
- Group II: James Scarbro, Chesapeake Branch 40 (28 Members)
- Group III: Frank Misiura, Yokosuka Branch 103 (46 Members)
- Group IV: Leon Zalewski, Milwaukee Branch 014 (7 Members)
- Group V: Michael Bevill, Lone Star, Branch 11 (16 Members)

Abraham M. Rosenberg Membership Trophy

Cheyenne Branch 59, Cheyenne, Wyo., was named to receive the Abraham M. Rosenberg Membership Trophy for its excellence in membership promotion. As the overall winner from the five Membership Groups, Branch 59 realized a 15.56-percent recruiting gain.

Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award

Shipmate Charles H. Goodman II of Branch 276, Omaha, Neb., was this year's recipient of the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award for exemplifying FRA's three cardinal principles, especially in membership endeavors.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Randy Phillipp, Branch 182

First Place

- Group I – Branch 269
- Group II – Branch 290
- Group III – Branch 230
- Group IV – Branch 186
- Group V – Branch 011

Second Place

- Group I – Branch 046
- Group II – Branch 175
- Group III – Branch 120
- Group IV – Branch 192
- Group V – Branch 379

Third Place

- Group I – Branch 024
- Group II – Branch 136
- Group III – Branch 234
- Group IV – Branch 115
- Group V – Branch 063

Shipmate of the Year – Shipmate Robert Huscher, Branch 186.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: James E. Robbins, Jr., Branch 91

First Place

- Group I – Branch 289
- Group II – Branch 29
- Group III – Branch 42
- Group IV – Branch 238
- Group V – Branch 37

Second Place

- Group I – Branch 24
- Group II – Branch 136
- Group III – Branch 182
- Group IV – Branch 3
- Group V – Branch 379

Third Place

- Group I – Branch 269
- Group II – Branch 208
- Group III – Branch 110
- Group IV – Branch 207
- Group V – Branch 11

Youth Activities

Shipmate of the Year

Earnest Reed of Branch 34, Tallahassee, Fla.



20% of these proceeds go to U.S. Military veterans' charities and causes...

There's Never Been A More Meaningful Gift For A Hero's Family, Proudly Displayed In Military Families' Homes

Announcing the first and only AUTHENTIC...
IRAQ WAR PATRIOTIC COIN COLLECTION
Honoring and Supporting Our American
Heroes' Determination
To Make America And The World Safer
For Our Families And Future Generations

- Certified Mint-Condition Iraq Coins
- Displayed In Hand-Assembled Shadow-Boxes
- With Beautiful Patriotic Photos and Emblems...
- LIMITED EDITION for Collectors
- Symbolizing The Honor, Commitment and Heroism Of The U.S. Military



THE WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION, one of two different Editions of these Shadow-Boxes, was accepted by President George W. Bush at the White House as a gift for the Bush Presidential Library from SSgt John Borders, US Army, who you probably saw on the TV News after losing his leg fighting in Iraq and extended rehab at Walter Reed, he went bike riding with the President. Any military veteran, spouse, son or daughter, father or mother will be just as proud to receive this UNIQUE COMMEMORATIVE as a gift this Holiday Season. YOUR PURCHASE IS 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED: you must be thrilled with your Collectible Shadow-Box or you may return it for a full refund.

Accompanying your Shadow-Box: a Certificate of Authenticity, a letter telling the amazing story of the rescue of these coins from Iraq, a full-color copy of the photo of President Bush accepting the Shadow-Box (suitable for framing), and an audio CD of Lee Greenwood's famous song 'God Bless The USA' in a full-color gift book. ...everything combined provides an Unforgettable, Meaningful Gift – so you'll want at least one for the veteran or military family in your life, and one of these Commemorative Collections for your own home or place of business to show your support for our military. We hold the entire supply of these mint-condition coins, and hope to raise as much as \$20-million to support veterans through their sale but when they're gone, they're gone. These are Limited Edition Collectibles honoring our brave young men and women and their unflinching commitment, courage and integrity. You may have seen Lee Greenwood or the leaders of ProductsForGood interviewed about these unique Commemorative Collections and this fundraising effort on FOX & FRIENDS, NEIL CAVUTO, HANNITY AND COLMES or seen the most popular episode of EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER (with 14 million viewers) where SSgt Daniel Gilyeat, USMC, a single father of four who lost a leg in Iraq, had his house rebuilt for his family – and we were able to help make that happen. If you hurry, while supplies last, you can own one of these Commemoratives that are changing lives, for proud display in your own home's living room, family room or den, and give one as a heartfelt gift certain to be appreciated like no other.

To see full-color, detailed photographs of the four-coin White House Collection and the two-coin Collection, obtain details of the charitable activities and support for military veterans' families the sale of these Collectibles makes possible, read the amazing story of the coins, and see and hear from people who own these Collectibles – and, of course, to order yours... go to www.giftsforpatriots27.com... where you'll be welcomed personally by Lee Greenwood. (Or you may order by phone at 877-446-6341.)

Be Part Of Something Great!

What an exciting and unique Event! The release to the public of these special Collections is a historic opportunity to honor our current generation of American heroes and their great sacrifices... as well as a major new opportunity for astute collectors...to own something of meaning and significance, to proudly display in your own home and later pass along to your children or grandchildren. There are so many FIRSTS surrounding these Patriotic Commemoratives that they are certain to have their place of honor in U.S. history as well as coin collectors' and other collectors' and investors' homes...

Supplies limited – demand high!

The world of coin collecting can't stop "buzzing" about this historic event. Military men and women and their families write us daily, telling us how much these Collections mean to them – many of their letters posted at www.giftsforpatriots27.com. Demand for these Collections may make this one of the most successful collectibles of all time. Right now, it is still possible to get in on the ground floor of this historic event – but that could change at any moment. You can avoid the disappointment of being too late to possess these Collections only by responding IMMEDIATELY. These are the FIRST AND ONLY fully authenticated Iraq coins, brought to the U.S. directly from Iraq immediately after the fall of Saddam. They are in perfect mint condition, never circulated, and protected in sealed packets...so their stunning appearance and potential value is fully safeguarded. It's impossible to predict future value, but there can never be another of these coins minted! Don't delay. DON'T LET HISTORY PASS YOU BY.

THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR PRIZED COLLECTION IS AN EVENT!

Just as President Bush responded

emotionally when presented with his Collection by SSgt John Borders, US Army, in the White House, this will be a meaningful, emotional moment for you and your loved ones. When you present one of these Collections as a gift to your son, daughter, brother, sister or father or mother or good friend with military involvement, you'll share in a very memorable moment of honor that they'll appreciate as no other. We know – we see people tear up, cry, smile, and tell their hero stories everywhere we make these Collections available in person. When you display your own Collection above fireplace mantle or with photographs of the hero in your family, you will make an important statement of patriotic pride to every visitor to your home or office.

Your Satisfaction & Pride Is GUARANTEED

You risk nothing. You have 30 days after receiving your Collections to return them for full refund if you are disappointed, for any reason – no questions asked, no hassles. Further, you can keep the Lee Greenwood 'God Bless The USA' Book and Audio CD as your free gift, even if you choose to return the Collections. That's how CERTAIN that we are that you and your family will be thrilled to possess this unique patriotic commemorative.

Magnificent Collection Shadow-Boxes Assembled In The U.S.A., By Handicapped Workers

These Collections of authentic collectible Iraq coins are placed in beautiful real-wood-framed, glass-covered display boxes with full-color patriotic symbols, making a magnificent presentation ready to hang on the wall or place on fireplace mantle or shelf. The displays are assembled right here in America, as many as possible by handicapped workers – your purchase not only benefits our

heroic veterans, but also provides employment to handicapped men and women who never ask for a hand-out, only for a hand up.

Accompanied By A Certificate Of Authenticity And Photo of the Presentation to President Bush

Each Collection is sent with its own numbered Certificate of Authenticity, describing the source of these coins, and attesting to their authenticity. This is an important investment document to put away in a safe place. You also receive an 8x10" full-color copy of the Official Photograph, of SSgt John Borders, a heroic veteran who lost his leg in service in Iraq, presenting President Bush with the White House Collection – suitable for framing or placement in a scrapbook.

Very Affordably Priced One-of-a-Kind Collectible

We have done everything we can to keep the investment required to own and gift these Collections as low as possible. Of course, we could have outsourced the manufacture and assembly of the display cases overseas at some savings but felt that inappropriate – so assembly stays here in America. We did make a huge investment in acquiring and safely preserving the entire supply of these Iraq coins. It does, unfortunately, cost money to advertise and make you aware of them, and we are further committed to a continuing publicity and public/media relations campaign dedicated to honor for our Iraq veterans. With all that considered, I'm sure you'll be very pleasantly surprised at the low cost of these Collections. The premier, most prestigious White House Collection with four coins is only \$149.00 or two for \$249.00 (a \$49.00 savings)...about the same as the cost for just 6 or 8 ordinary hardcover books, a few months of cable TV, or an evening out for 4, dinner and a movie. Yet this Collection has lasting value and legacy. The

Hi, this is LEE GREENWOOD – proud to be an American just like you, and thrilled to be involved with ProductsForGood's raising of millions of dollars for veterans' charities. Our brave men and women are coming home from Iraq and elsewhere – from the walls protecting our land of the free – with severe injuries, with families in financial trauma, and they need our help. Every time you give one of these magnificent commemorative, collectible Iraq coin displays as a gift to military family members or friends or as business gifts, you automatically make a contribution. Thanks for helping! – Lee

smaller Two Coin Collection is only \$99.00. And remember, 20% of the proceeds go directly to support veterans' organizations and charities and special projects...all fully shown, explained and documented and continuously up-dated at our official web site.

A Christmas Gift Like No Other

Could there be a more unique, more meaningful, more impressive holiday gift than one of these Collections? – certain to be warmly received and appreciated by any military family.

Act Now!

The supply is limited. No more coins can ever be minted. This landmark opportunity may end at any time, without notice. The only way to be certain of securing the Collections you want for yourself, loved ones, as gifts or for investment purposes is to place your order IMMEDIATELY by calling toll free 1-877-446-6341 or going to:

www.giftsforpatriots27.com

*ProductsForGood is a for-profit business proudly donating 20% of its revenues from the sale of all the collectible Iraq coins and these Limited Edition Commemorative Shadow-Boxes to selected veterans' charities and causes as well as direct support of veterans. This is the FIRST AND ONLY TIME that a business in the collectibles field has donated 20% of its gross revenues to help seriously injured Iraq War veterans and other veterans – in cooperation with highly respected organizations like HELPING A HERO and OPERATION FAMILY FUND. Already, in a very short time, we've donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and have a goal of millions in the next 18 months. The need is great...EVERY DAY OUR HEROES RETURN SERIOUSLY INJURED, in need of physical care and rehabilitation, emotional support, family support far beyond what the government provides. These Commemorative Shadow-Boxes are sold at military base PX stores, at the Art Gallery at West Point, and other select locations. As a reader of FRA TODAY, you are invited to order yours direct from ProductsForGood and receive a FREE IRAQ COIN. All advertised offers may be withdrawn without notice as supplies are limited. © 2008 G-K LLC.

ADVERTISEMENT



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.

Try MAXODERM® FREE TODAY!

For a Limited Time, receive an additional \$200 in Free Gifts! *See Reader's Note for details.



Male Enhancement Products ... Do They REALLY Work?

Ask The Expert

How To Improve. Increase. ENJOY.



Q: Dear Steffanie,

For the past year, I've been having some confidence issues. It's really dragging me and my relationship with my wife down. I wanted to try some pills I heard about but I found out they can take 3 or more months to work. In your judgment, does anything work faster or better?

Jason M.
Manhattan Beach, CA

A: Well Jason,

The *verdict* is in and I just happen to have the perfect answer to boost you and your confidence, while giving your wife the time of her life ... repeatedly!

For months my husband was feeling the exact same way you were and then, one night, we had the most phenomenal experience, EVER. I had never seen him more excited and powerful. He took control right from the start and the feelings we shared together were

totally mind-blowing. And, here's the best part, every time since that night, he just keeps getting better and better. It's amazing! I can't get enough of him now!

Finally, the other day, my curiosity took over. I had to know what brought about this drastic change. So, I asked him. To my shock, he handed me a tube of MAXODERM. I just couldn't believe this product MAXODERM was actually making him feel fuller and more virile. I did a little research and was surprised by what I found.

Recommended by Leading Physician, Michael A. Savino, M.D., F.A.C.S., it's the premiere, fast-acting topical lotion designed to enhance virility quality while intensifying your sensation for the ultimate experience. Since 1998, men have had the option to turn to prescription drugs. But with embarrassing doctor visits required and even worse the potential side effects that have been in the news recently, more and more men are searching for safe alternatives that work. To my intimate knowledge, MAXODERM's PATENTED

targeted delivery system effectively reaches the desired area upon application, maximizing absorption, resulting in a performance to be proud of each and every time. I'm a huge (and grateful) fan of MAXODERM and trust me, I know my husband is too.

MAXODERM IS Instant Male Enhancement. You can check out MAXODERM by calling **1-800-424-2458** 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 **30 day Money Back Guarantee**. You can't beat that!

Delightfully Yours,

A \$60 Value
FREE
*see Reader's Note



RECOMMENDED BY A LEADING PHYSICIAN

READER'S NOTE *MAXODERM RISK FREE OFFER

"We know that once you try MAXODERM you'll never want to go without it again - it's that simple. We're so confident that we're giving an unheard of 30-day Full Money Back Guarantee! Order 2 tubes Risk-Free Today and we'll throw in a FREE MONTH SUPPLY and FOR A LIMITED TIME, you can still get \$200 worth of Free Gifts with your order that are yours to keep. So join the thousands of satisfied customers today and call 1-800-424-2458 or visit www.getmaxoderm.com. You have nothing to lose and everything to 'gain'!" - Barmensen Labs

PATENTED FORMULA!

Individual results may vary. The information featured above has been compiled from actual letters we've received from a few of our many satisfied customers. Customer testimonial results may not be typical. The pen name Dr. Steffanie Seaver is used for privacy purposes. All credentials are actual. Dr. Savino is a compensated member of Barmensen's Advisory Board. NAAF1108

Message from the New England Regional President

MEMBERS OF THE NEW England Region have been busy donating care packages to Iraq, donating to Hospice of Cape Cod, Relay for Life for Brockton Veterans Affairs, Rockland Food Pantry and The Appalachian Project at The Medford Food Pantry.

They also contributed to Homeless Shelters for Veterans' lend-a-hand project and the Baby Room of Abington. Pinetree Unit 156, Brunswick, Maine, gave donations to wounded warriors at Camp Lejeune in January and in December they hosted a fantastic Christmas Party.

Several members from New England Branches and Units attended the funeral services for PRPNEng Russ Mularchy, Richard Ernest, Lloyd Jacobs, LA FRA PRPNEng Elaine King, and Marjorie Curran.

LA FRA JrPRPNEng Jean Dane presented a trophy to an outstanding cadet at the Coast Guard Academy. An Achievement Award was presented to Eric Miron, Russ Mularchy's grandson for college. A donation will be presented to the National President for her project, "Welfare and Rehabilitation" at the National Convention.

In closing, I am proud and pleased to have represented New England this past year as your Regional President.



MARJORIE PITCHER
Regional President, New England

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



LA FRA Past National Presidents

First row left to right: PNP Betty J. DeCleene; PNP Dorothy S. Beese; PNP Velda A. Larsen; PNP Patricia L. Garwood; PNP C. "Kay" Lancaster; PNP Gail W. Johnson; PNP Sandra G. Sweeney; and PNP Elizabeth H. Pounds. Second row left to right: PNP Ruth Eblen; PNP Carolyn D. Combs; PNP D. Loretta Roberts; PNP Dorothy J. Maurath; PNP Arlene C. Hemmingway; PNP Nita L. DeLesdernier; PNP Virginia T. Schmidt; PNP Patricia A. Boudreaux; and JrPNP Sandra L. Robbins.

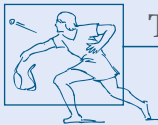


Asbestos Cancer Hits Former Sailors

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.**

FOR COMPENSATION INFORMATION:

FREE PACKET for mesothelioma or lung cancer, diagnosis/death, **please contact:**



The David Law Firm
"Defeating Today's Goliaths"

Toll Free 1-800-998-9729

**Email: info@thedavidlawfirm.com
www.asbestos-attorney.com/n5297**

The David Law Firm, P.C.
Jonathan David*
10655 Six Pines Drive, #260
The Woodlands, TX 77380
(Greater Houston Area)

Handling cases nationwide with local co-counsel in state of filing.

* Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas.
Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION:

FREE PACKET for mesothelioma patients, **please contact:**



Mesothelioma Web
*Hope * Support * Help*

Toll Free 1-877-367-6376

**Email: info@mesotheliomaweb.org
www.mesotheliomaweb.org/n5297**

The most comprehensive resource for Mesothelioma patients and their families.

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.

YOUR RIGHTS ARE SUBJECT TO STRICT TIME LIMITATIONS

Your legal claims must be filed within the time period allowed by law or you and your family members will lose all of your rights to recover against the corporations that are responsible for your injuries. **DO NOT DELAY!**



THE JOHNSON LAW FIRM

...providing access to justice for the injured, nationwide

CALL NOW! TOLL FREE

1-866-374-0338

Principal offices: Johnson Law Firm - Fort Worth, TX. *Past successes cannot be an assurance of future successes since each case must be decided on its own merits. Steven Johnson is the lawyer responsible for this advertisement.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

MEMBER SERVICES
FRA
125 N. WEST STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2754

PERIODICAL